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Your Right to Know

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"Election Commission has completely failed to maintain law and order during the ongoing union parishad elections."
JATIYA PARTY CHAIRMAN GM QUADER



"All the major powers have business interests in Myanmar, and despite the Myanmar military's abuses of power, these countries are not taking any harsh actions."
SECURITY EXPERT BRIG GEN (RETD) M SHAKHAWAT HUSSAIN



"The Digital Services Act that is now before this [EU] Parliament has the potential to be a global gold standard."
FB WHISTLEBLOWER ON CURBING POWER OF BIG TECH

FARMERS BANK LOAN SCAM

Ex-chief justice Sinha gets 11yrs

Convicted for money laundering, breach of trust

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMIRUL HASAN BAPPI

Former chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha was the principal beneficiary of the illegal loans approved for him in violation of the Farmers Bank's credit policy, a Dhaka court observed in its verdict yesterday.

The court sentenced Sinha to seven years in prison for money laundering and another four years for breach of trust to be served concurrently.

Judge Shaikh Nazmul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 also sentenced eight others to jail terms of three to four years in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission against Sinha and 10 others. Seven of the accused were present at the packed courtroom.

Sinha, who is believed to be in the USA, was fined Tk 45 lakh, in default of which, he will have to serve an additional six months in jail.

The court asked the authorities



concerned to confiscate Tk 78 lakh from a Dhaka Bank, now Padma Bank, account of Sinha's nephew Shankhajit Sinha in favour of the state. Justice Sinha deposited the money into Shankhajit's account.

The 182-page verdict mentioned that the five convicted former officials of Farmers Bank's Gulshan branch illegally and dishonestly forwarded the credit proposals to its head office for sanctioning two loans of Tk 2 crore each, violating the banking laws.

Violating the credit policy of the bank, the head office then illegally and dishonestly approved the loans that were disbursed in the account of the disgraced chief justice.

"The proceeds of loans are the proceeds of crime; resultantly, credit of the loan amount in the account of SK Sinha makes him the abettor and the prime beneficiary," the verdict observed.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



French President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stand outside the Elysee Palace in Paris yesterday. Hasina arrived in the French capital from London.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ESKAYEF'S COVID pill hits market

3 other local drugmakers also get nod for production, marketing of the oral medicine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eskayef Pharmaceuticals yesterday rolled out the world's first oral anti-Covid drug Molnupiravir after the drug administration gave emergency production and marketing authorisation of the pill that is said to halve the rate of hospitalisations and deaths in high-risk Covid-19 patients.

Called Monuvir, the tablet, which costs Tk 50, is available in all drug stores and hospitals all over the country, according to Mohammad Mujahidul Islam, executive director of Eskayef's marketing and sales.

Developed by American pharmaceutical companies Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, the pills are designed to be taken as soon as possible after a positive coronavirus test and within five days of the onset of symptoms -- a time when the virus is replicating rapidly and the immune system has not yet mounted a defence.

Patients will take four capsules twice a day for five days, so the full

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



TOMORROW'S UNION PARISHAD ELECTIONS

AL infighting ruins festivity in campaign

PARITHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The ongoing union parishad polls show just how desperate the grassroots Awami League leaders are to go to power or cling to it at the lowest tier of the local government.

Many AL leaders filed nominations ignoring the party's decisions and repeated warnings, and pitted themselves against party nominees in the polls boycotted by major political parties.

Such bitter infighting within the AL has led to numerous incidents of violence across the country in recent weeks. Also, some chilling remarks made by the AL chairman nominees and party leaders give an indication that they would do whatever they could to bar voters, who might go against them, from exercising their franchise.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) President Hafizuddin Khan said, "Such activities and comments of the ruling party men are an ominous sign for democracy. Such activities could never have taken place if there was democratic practice."

He said democracy starts with an impartial election. "Turnouts in elections to local bodies have

- 690 rebel candidates contesting 2nd phase of UP polls
- 40 killed in pre-polls violence during January-October
- Nine more people killed in 9 days in November

decreased and more voters will now feel insecure to go to polling centres to cast their votes after hearing such comments."

Asked about polls violence and comments by ruling party men, Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukdar said, "This is a huge threat to democracy." "By making such comments, they are totally ignoring the Election Commission," Mahbub said without elaborating.

A total of 846 unions will go to polls tomorrow and elections to another 1,004 will be held on November 28 in the second and third phases.

Kishoreganj's Bajitpur upazila AL Secretary

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Boy killed as road-side wall collapses

Parents, locals blame it on negligence of authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Our seven-year-old child is dead. So is our dream!" The father of Zihad Hossain, a schoolboy who was killed as a wall collapsed on him in the capital's Azimpur area, kept wailing as he said this yesterday.

"We had a dream of educating our youngest child Zihad, but shattered," said Nadir Hossain, a betel leaf seller. Zihad met the tragic end of his life around 8:15am yesterday while going to his school, around 2km away from his home, on foot.

A boundary wall of the Azimpur Government Officers' Quarter (south zone) fell on him as he reached the area, leaving him critically injured.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where on-duty doctors declared him dead, said Nadir, who also sustained minor injuries on his leg in the incident.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



BUS OVERCHARGING

Joint drive in capital starts tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will conduct joint drives in Dhaka city from tomorrow onwards to stop bus operators from overcharging passengers.

Eleven executive magistrates of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), police personnel, and representatives of the transport associations will take part in the drives.

"We have been getting some allegations of overcharging [by bus operators], especially in Dhaka city. We have taken the issue seriously and will conduct joint drives in Dhaka city from Thursday," BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder told The Daily Star yesterday.

The decision came following a meeting between the BRTA and transport leaders at BRTA headquarters yesterday evening.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Students taking pictures after receiving coronavirus jabs on Kakoli High School and College premises. The vaccination programme gave students and guardians a mixed feeling as they somewhat struggled because of mismanagement at the programme.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SCHOOL KIDS' COVID JABS

Joy is there, sufferings too

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Long queues, mismanagement in the vaccine centres and multiple difficulties in the registration process have dampened the excitement surrounding the government's initiative to inoculate schoolchildren aged 12-17 with Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine.

"We had to stand in line for around an hour and a half to get our vaccine," Lamia Akhter, a student of Dhanmondi Kamrunnesa Govt Girls High School told The Daily Star yesterday.

Like Lamia, many other guardians and students complained about mismanagement and demanded an increased number of vaccine centres.

According to the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), a list of more than 4 lakh students aged between 12 and 17 years, of schools in Dhaka, was sent to the ICT Division for vaccine registration. Of them, over 2.5 lakh have already been registered.

There are about 6.5 lakh students of 12-17 years enrolled at schools in Dhaka.

This correspondent visited the centres in Ideal School and College in Motijheel and Kakoli High School and College in Dhanmondi and found the situation outside the school gates to be chaotic.

Students had to face hurdles to even enter the school premises.

A former governing body member of Motijheel Ideal School was receiving students from the gate on Monday noon. Students from Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, Shiddeshwari Girls' High School and Motijheel Govt Boys' High School were seen there.

Scout and BNCC members of the school were seen helping students.

The former governing body member, wishing anonymity, SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BANGLADESH UPDATE



205
New cases in 24hrs



15,71,434
Total cases



27,904
Deaths



15,35,390
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE



50,75,036
Deaths



251,252,276
Total cases

AL infighting ruins

FROM PAGE 1
General Abdullah Al Mamun on Friday threatened voters saying that he would use an AK-47 rifle if they don't vote for the party chairman candidate in Humaipur union parishad polls.

He issued the warning while speaking at a campaign rally for AL nominee Rafiqul Islam at Humaipur Islamia Arabia Madrasa. The 7:10-minute video clip of Mamun's speech went viral in social media.

"We will not only use AK-47, but also would do whatever is needed," the AL leader said.

"The administration is ours, so are the police and the government. Do I need to say anything more?"

Mamun later claimed that he made the remarks on AK-47 to remove fear from the party men's mind. He said he did not mean to use AK-47 rifles during the polls.

The same day, Madaripur's Kalkini upazila Jubo League Joint Secretary General Md Afzal Hossain Molla said he would carry two arms and anyone could appear before him if they dared to.

"Those who do not cast vote for 'boat' [electoral symbol of Awami League] have no right to live here," he said while addressing a campaign rally at Surjamonji Bazar in support of AL chairman candidate Mojibur Rahman in Laxmipur Union Parishad election.

Afzal is a nephew of the AL candidate.

Asked about his comments, Afzal told the media that he threatened those who verbally abuse the ruling party.

"Activities and comments by ruling party men during UP polls campaign are ominous sign for democracy."

HAFIZUDDIN KHAN
EX-ADVISER TO CARETAKER GOVT

On November 1, Shariatpur Sadar upazila Chairman Abul Hashem Tapadar warned that no opportunity will be given to seek votes against "boat" in the Domsar Union Parishad elections. Video footage of his speech at a rally spread on social media.

He issued the warning at a polls rally of AL candidate Mizan Mohammad Khan.

Abul Hashem later claimed that he did not make such comments and it was a propaganda against him. "Nowadays many things can be edited and circulated."

Chairman of Haldiapalang UP in Cox's Bazar's Ukhia upazila, Shah Alam, also the AL nominee for tomorrow's election, on November 1 said that there will be a list of people who will not vote for "boat" and they would not be allowed a place in the local graveyard for burial after their death.

On October 30, Masudur Rahman, youth and sports affairs secretary of Natore AL, said those who will not vote for the AL in the UP election would not be allowed to go to polling centres.

Masud was addressing a campaign rally of Omor Ali Prodhan, AL chairman nominee in Tebaria Union Parishad polls in Natore Sadar upazila.

Alamgir Hossain, returning officer of the Chitalia union parishad election in Shariatpur Sadar upazila, late last month said, "A decision has been made after discussing with the MP sir that there will be no election

in the Chitalia union; everyone will be selected. Iqbal Hossain MP has said this."

The lawmaker, however, later said he did not give any such decision.

Enquired about the comments by candidates and AL leaders, Election Commissioner Rafiqul Islam said, "If anyone made such comments during electioneering, returning officers and executive magistrates concerned will take action. We take action after conducting investigations."

Asked if such remarks were hampering the polls atmosphere and causing fear among voters, he said, "I can't make any comments instantly without analysing the events thoroughly. If the returning officers and executive magistrates consider that, they can inform the commission regarding the matter."

VIOLENCE

Violence continued ahead of tomorrow's second phase of the union parishad polls. In most cases, supporters of AL nominees and party "rebel" candidates are getting involved in violence. Sources in the ruling party said around 690 "rebel" candidates are contesting elections tomorrow.

The absence of other major political parties in the polls, internal feud, poor chain of command within the party and nepotism in picking candidates at the grassroots are among the reasons for so many rebel candidates taking part in the polls, top AL leaders told The Daily Star.

"Many grassroots leaders, who have become rich, now hardly pay heed to party instructions. Again, opposition parties are backing the 'rebels' financially. That's why there are so many 'rebel' candidates," AL presidium member Kazi Zafarullah told The Daily Star.

He said they have asked all grassroots leaders not to get involved in any clash. He warned that the party would control the "rebel" candidates strictly.

"Previously, we had accepted 'rebels' into our party. This time around, we will not accept them," he said.

Statistics of Ain o Salish Kendra show at least 44 people were killed in clashes centering local government polls between January and October this year. Of them, 40 were killed in clashes over UP polls.

This month, at least nine people have been killed in pre-polls violence in Naryanganj, Cox's Bazar, Narsingdi and Dhaka's Dhamari upazila, according to media reports.

Data compiled by Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) showed that a total of 147 people were killed in violence over the last UP elections in 2016.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury said, "Independent candidates are becoming victims of electoral violence."

Speaking at meeting organised by EC with police and admin officials on November 4, he asked all election officials to create a level playing field for all candidates.

In the meeting, police and civil administration officials warned the commission of more polls violence in seven districts of Dhaka and Khulna divisions.

Deputy Inspector General of police (Dhaka Range) Habibur Rahman told the meeting that there were possibilities of violence in 90 unions of Dhaka division. As many as 170 unions will go to polls in the division tomorrow.

Joy is there, sufferings too

FROM PAGE 1
The Daily Star that there are 24 booths at the centre but not all are open and that is why the authorities are struggling to manage the crowd.

Farid Ahmed, a guardian waiting for over half an hour for his child to get vaccinated, said he tried several times to register, but couldn't as the school authorities didn't send them the necessary information. He was able to register only after personally contacting a health ministry official.

Meanwhile, a Vigarunnisa student was barred by a BNCC member from entering the centre as she did not have her birth certificate, even though she had her vaccine card.

Guardians claimed that another major problem in registration was regarding the birth certificate number. Allegedly, those who had a 16-digit number instead of 17 were not allowed to register on the Surokha app.

Marium Begum, a guardian, told The Daily Star that she tried several times to register her daughter -- a student of Ideal School, Banasree Branch -- for the vaccine but couldn't as she had a 16-digit birth certificate number.

The Kakoli School centre, which has 24 vaccine booths, had no major hassles inside. However, due to a large number of guardians accompanying the students, entry into the centre was difficult.

Some of the students at the centre said the management inside the centre was smooth but they had to stand in line for a long time.

The government started inoculating schoolchildren aged 12 to 17 in Dhaka city on November 1 with the Covid-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer-BioNTech in eight centres.

The eight schools with centres are Ideal School and College in Motijheel, Hurdo International School at Bashundhara, Southpoint School and College at Malibagh, Chittagong Grammar School at Banani, Dhaka Commerce College in Mirpur, Kakoli High School and College in Dhanmondi, South Breeze School in Uttara and Scholastica School in Mirpur.

Contacted, Khandaker Azizur Rahman, senior system analyst of EMIS Cell of the DSHE, said they already spoke about the birth certificate issue with the Surokha app team.

"We told them to allow the 16-digit certificates. They are working on it."

Keeping all the hurdles aside, many students and guardians were happy about the vaccination programme and some said they were relieved for it.

Aszadul Alam, a guardian, in front of Ideal School, told The Daily Star that he and his wife both worked in a bank and they had to go outside every day.

"We were anxious about our child. We both got jabs and Fahad's [his child] school was reopened. He was the most vulnerable at our house. Now it's safe for all of us," he said.

A group of girls, in a festive mood, came to Vigarunnisa Noon School and College.

One of them said, "Hurry up! The jabs will be stocked out soon."

In response, the guard assured, "No worries! The queue is not too long at the moment."

After getting the jabs, some students were resting in corners, verandas or nearer classrooms whereas some were feeling otherwise. In fact, one of them was heard saying, "I am too young to take a rest."



Indian President Ram Nath Kovind hands over Padma Shri to Liberation War veteran Lt Col (ret'd) Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi yesterday. Zahir was conferred with the prestigious Indian civilian award in recognition of his contribution to public affairs.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Ex-chief justice Sinha gets 11yrs

FROM PAGE 1

Former Farmers Bank managing director AKM Shamim was sentenced to four years in prison and fined Tk 50,000, in default of which he would have to serve an additional six months.

The court sentenced the bank's former senior executive vice president Gazi Salauddin, first vice presidents Swapan Kumar Roy and Shafiuddin Askary Ahmed, vice president Lutful Haque and former chairman of the bank's audit committee Mahbubul Haque Chisty alias Babul Chisty to three years in prison.

Two other accused Ranjit Chandra Saha and his wife Santri Roy Simi were sentenced to three years in prison and fined Tk 10,000 each. Defaulting would mean an additional three months in jail.

Salauddin, Swapan, Shafiuddin and Lutful were each fined Tk 25,000 and Mahbubul was fined Tk 10,000. Defaulting would mean an additional three months in jail.

The verdict said Mahbubul influenced the bank officials concerned to sanction the loan.

Businessmen Md Shahjahan and Niranjana Chandra Saha were acquitted.

"In good faith, both Shahjahan and Niranjana signed some documents which were used in making loans in their names, but they were not the beneficiaries of the loans."

They were the victims of fraud by Ranjit, the court said.

Among the convicts, Shamim, Salahuddin, Swapan, Lutful, and Mahbubul are in jail while SK Sinha, Shafiuddin, Ranjit and Santri have been absconding.

The sentence of absconding convicts will take effect on or from the date of their arrest or surrender.

ACC lawyer Mir Ahmed Ali Salam said this was the first time in Bangladesh a former chief justice got convicted.

Lawyer Shahinur Islam who represented one of the accused said his clients would challenge the verdict in higher court.

A total of 21 prosecution witnesses gave their deposition before the court, Salam said.

In October 2018, the ACC said it found evidence of fraud involving transactions of Tk 4 crore borrowed with forged documents by two businessmen Shahjahan and Niranjana

from the Farmers Bank. The money was deposited later to Justice Sinha's account.

On July 10, 2019, ACC Director Syed Iqbal Hossain filed the graft case with its Integrated District Office-1 of Dhaka.

On December 8 that year, ACC Director Benjir Ahammad pressed charges against Sinha and the 10 other accused. The court framed charges against them on August 13 last year.

Justice Sinha resigned as chief justice on November 11, 2017, from abroad.

Talking to reporters at his office, Law Minister Anisul Huq said, "I am not very happy. Because, he [SK Sinha] had been involved with the judiciary. He was the chief justice of the country. It [conviction] cannot be pleasant for me."

"It has been proved through the verdict that nobody is above the law. Those who hold constitutional or important public offices must be accountable for their activities. They must be careful and maintain transparency and accountability. I think that an example has been set through this verdict."



Simeen Rahman, MD and CEO of Eskayef Pharmaceuticals, at the launch of Monuvir, the world's first generic Molnupiravir, the breakthrough oral anti-Covid medicine. Md Nazmul Islam, director of Communicable Diseases Control at DGHS; Mohammad Robed Amin, line director of Non-Communicable Disease Control at DGHS; and Billal Alam, president of the Bangladesh Society of Medicine, were present at the event.

Eskayef's Covid pill hits market

FROM PAGE 1

course would cost Tk 2,000.

The treatment, which is based on a molecule first studied at Emory University as a treatment for influenza, targets an enzyme that the coronavirus uses to make copies of itself, introducing errors into its genetic code.

In so doing, molnupiravir prevents the virus from replicating, so keeping the viral load low in the body and reducing the severity of the disease.

Merck said that approach should make the treatment equally effective against new variants of the virus as it evolves in the future.

Eskayef got the formulation for the molnupiravir from Medicines Patent Pool, a United Nations-backed non-profit that works to make medical treatment and technologies globally accessible.

Following concerns that poor countries could be shut out of access to the medicine, much as they have been for vaccines, in October, Merck, Ridgeback Biotherapeutics and Emory University -- which, coincidentally, is the alma mater of Eskayef chief Simeen Rahman's two sons -- granted a royalty-free licence for the pill to Medicines Patent Pool.

The Medicines Patent Pool has deep experience in working with a network of global drugmakers that can meet high-quality standards, including those required for the World Health Organisation prequalification.

The deal allows the drug to be made

and sold cheaply in 105 developing countries, with no fee required from the sublicensing company.

Generic drug makers in developing countries are expected to market the drug for as little as \$20 per treatment (a five-day course), compared to the \$712 per course that the US government has agreed to pay for its initial purchase.

So far, Eskayef has received requests from Cambodia, Somalia and Nigeria for the antiviral pill manufactured at its state-of-the-art plant approved by the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (UK MHRA).

Eskayef, which exports medicines to 65 countries, has applied to the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) for permission to export Monuvir, Islam told The Daily Star yesterday.

"I thank and congratulate the company for marketing the world-standard anti-Covid drug very fast," said Md Nazmul Islam, director of Communicable Diseases Control at Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), at the launch ceremony of Monuvir.

On November 4, the UK became the first country to authorise the use of molnupiravir.

He went on to urge the 31-year-old drugmaker to ensure that the price of the drug stays within the affordability of the common people.

"Our initiative is not only for business but also to leave a positive impact on humanity and mankind," said Simeen Rahman, the managing

director and chief executive officer of Eskayef.

With the launch of Monuvir, the people of Bangladesh and across the world are now getting an oral medication to fight against the deadly Covid-19, she said, adding that Eskayef would be bringing out all possible medicines to snuff out the pandemic.

Last year, Eskayef was among the first drug makers in the world to roll out antiviral remdesivir, a drug that had generated intense interest as a treatment for Covid-19, and had exported it to 43 countries.

The drug will be a game-changer as there is no established anti-Covid drug, said Mohammad Robed Amin, line director of Non-Communicable Disease Control at DGHS, while expressing his surprise at the pace of its roll out by Eskayef, a concern of Transcom.

"Introduction of this drug by Eskayef is remarkable because we do not know whether there will be another wave of Covid-19. In this circumstance, if people can take medicine at home -- it is great," he added.

Meanwhile, the DGDA yesterday issued production and marketing authorisation for the pills to three other pharmaceutical companies: Beximco, Square and Renata.

Beximco also announced the launch of the drug under the brand name "Emorivir".

Six other companies were waiting to get the nod, according to Md. Salah Uddin, director of DGDA.

Freedom Fighter Sajjad receives Padma Shri award

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Liberation War veteran Lt Col (ret'd) Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir yesterday received Padma Shri, one of India's most prestigious civilian awards, in recognition of his contribution to public affairs.

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind handed over a medal and a citation to Zahir as part of Padma Shri for 2021 at a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

The citation described 71-year-old Zahir as "Bangladesh Liberation War veteran, and founder of 'Shudhoi Muktijuddho' providing recognition to indigenous war veterans."

Zahir took part in the Liberation War in Sylhet region in 1971.

Career diplomat Syed Muazzem Ali (posthumously) was honoured with Padma Bhushan and scholar Enamul Haque, founder director general of Bangladesh National Museum, with Padma Shri by President Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday.

Boy killed

FROM PAGE 1

Locals alleged that the 30-year-old wall collapsed due to sheer negligence of the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) authorities.

Jamal Uddin Khan, president of Azimpur Government Officers' Quarter (south zone) Welfare Association, said, "DSCC contractors dug soil near the wall for constructing a drain, eventually loosening the earth under the wall."

"After construction of the drain, they did not even properly refill the dug portions."

Contacted, Mafizur Rahman, executive engineer (zone 3) of DSCC, denied the allegations. "We constructed the drain around six months ago. If there was any fault in our work, the wall had collapsed then."

He said they informed Public Work's Department (PWD) about the poor condition of the 500-metre wall around six months ago, but PWD left it unattended even after receiving the letter.

MM Morshed, officer-in-charge of Lalbagh Police Station, said the body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

"We are investigating the incident and trying to find out if there is any negligence on anyone's part," he said.

Asked, the victim's mother Moni Begum said, "We are poor and live hand to mouth."

"How will we bear expenses for legal battle? Where will I go to seek justice for my son?" she asked in tears.

Joint drive

FROM PAGE 1

Many bus operators in the capital and Chattogram city have been overcharging since the government increased bus and minibuses fares up to 28 percent on Monday.

Nur Mohammad said they had called the meeting because they wanted to involve transport leaders in the actions regarding overcharging, adding that BRTA mobile courts have been conducting drives from Monday, which continued till yesterday, to stop the malpractice.

Around 10 mobile courts yesterday conducted drives against 257 buses in Dhaka and Chattogram and realised Tk 2.83 lakh from them, BRTA sources said.

Of the 257, fines were imposed on 73 buses -- 12 CNG-run and 61 diesel-run buses -- for overcharging, they said.

From Thursday, nine executive magistrates of the BRTA and two of the DMP will operate mobile courts in different parts of the capital, while police personnel and representatives of transport associations will accompany them, BRTA chairman said.

Besides, the BRTA has sent a letter to all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners to conduct mobile courts in their areas. A letter was also sent to the inspector general of police and all metropolitan commissioners to take necessary legal actions to stop overcharging.

BRTA chairman also said that they asked owners of CNG-run buses to use sticker on buses so that passengers can understand easily.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Road Transport Owners' Association yesterday directed their members to stop charging more than the government-set rate.

In a letter, Khandaker Enayet Ullah, secretary general of the association, said they have been receiving complaints from different districts that "extra fares" are being taken from passengers.

"This is against the law and is a punishable offence," he said.

He asked transport leaders to be present on the roads to monitor the situation. He also warned of legal action against those overcharging passengers.

The letter also stated that CNG-run buses have to stick to the previous rate.

The Dhaka Road Transport Owners' Association also sent a similar letter to its members. Transport leaders have called for a press conference over the issue today.

Bangladesh must push harder

Say international relations analysts on resolving Rohingya crisis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to go for an emphatic push to resolve the Rohingya crisis, which otherwise could turn into a major global security issue, said international relations analysts yesterday.

At a webinar, they said the world cannot forget this crisis, created after decades of genocidal acts by the Myanmar authorities, in the midst of other crises.

Analysts observed that while Myanmar itself is going through a civil war-like situation since the military coup in February this year, the international community needs to start a peace-building process for Myanmar.

Bangabandhu Centre for Bangladesh Studies, Canada (BCBS) and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) jointly organised the webinar titled "The Rohingya Exodus in Bangladesh: Regional and Global Security Implications".

Speakers said Myanmar is plunging into more turmoil, with many of the ethnic rebel groups joining the National Unity

Government's forces to resist the Myanmar military, while nearly a million Rohingyas are getting even more frustrated, as there has been no repatriation since the latest exodus in 2017.

Human trafficking, drug smuggling and religious extremism could go from bad to worse in the refugee camps, they feared.

"I think this is the right time to go for a strong push for a solution to the Rohingya crisis," said Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University's international relations department.

Negating the notion that the Myanmar military is very strong, he said it is, in fact, a weak entity because it is killing its own people.

A lot of international conventions were formulated after the Second World War, and all of them will be considered ineffective, if the world does not take proper action on this issue, he added.

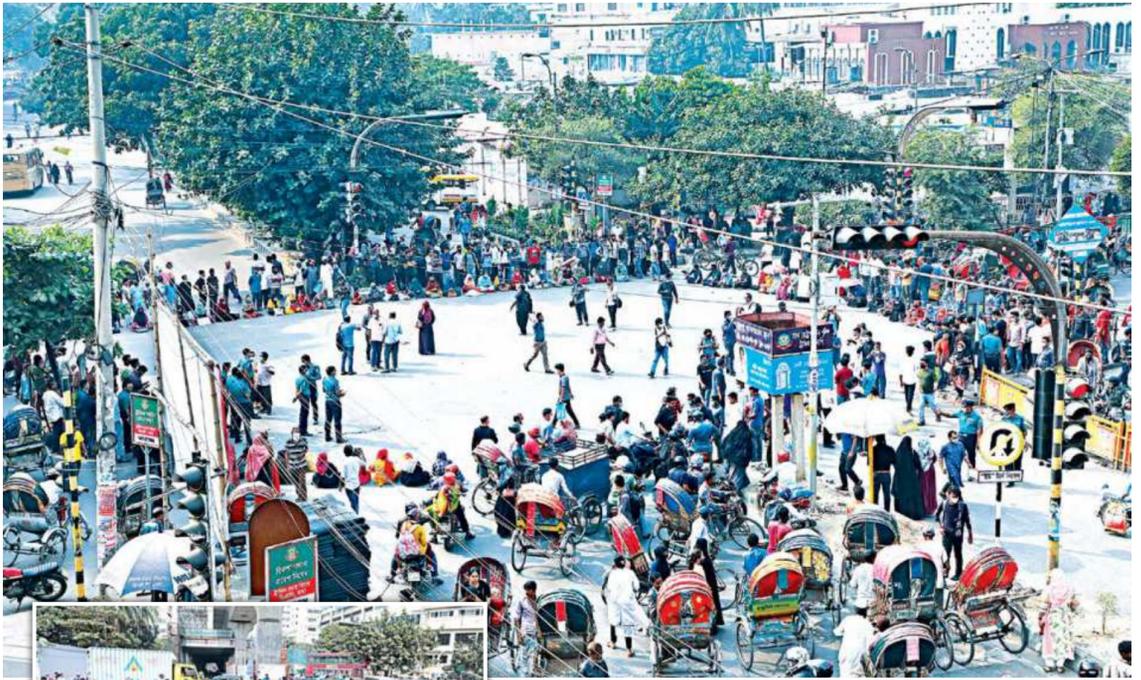
He proposed that Canada -- which, alongside the Netherlands, is providing logistic assistance to the ICJ case -- can act as a mediator.

The Rohingya issue is a global problem,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

"This is the right time to go for a strong push for a solution to the Rohingya crisis."

PROF IMTIAZ AHMED
International relations department, DU



Final-year students of Dhaka University's seven affiliated colleges blocked off Nilkhet intersection yesterday for about two hours, from 1pm to 3pm, demanding re-examination. According to them, the pandemic hindered their educational activities, which resulted in them performing badly in a recent exam. Meanwhile at Shahbagh, members of eight student organisations demonstrated to protest the price hike of fuel and public transport fares, inset.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, PALASH KHAN

Dengue claims another life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more dengue patient died while at least 106 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am today of which 24 are outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, a total of 1,247 were diagnosed during the running month out of a total 24,902 infected. Of the total infected, 3,702 are from outside Dhaka.

At least 5,458 were diagnosed in October, 7,841 in September, 7,698 in August, 2,286 were hospitalised in July, 272 in June while 43 were infected

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Include food safety issue in textbooks

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food safety issues should be in the curriculum and textbooks of primary education to increase awareness among people, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

The event -- "Apprising Food Safety Act 2013 and its Rules and Mass Media in Creating Public Awareness" -- was organised by Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) at a city hotel.

Speaking at the programme, noted development journalist Shykh Seraj said farmers are unconsciously contaminating food by using excessive pesticide.

"At the same time, they are damaging soil fertility by using extra fertiliser," he said, requesting the ministries concerned to work together to increase consciousness

among people at production level.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder said in a bid to provide safe food to people, the government is going to set up mobile laboratories in eight divisions of the country to check food standard and quality.

Besides, the government is going to set up the largest testing laboratory of Asia in Narayanganj.

The minister said ensuring food safety is the demand of time. "To build a healthy, active and meritorious nation, it is necessary to ensure safe food," he said, adding, that is why the government formulated the Food Safety Act.

Food secretary Dr Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum said setting up of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

A little late, but it finds a way to the plate

Exploring Mirpur's bazar of salvaged food

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

At Mirpur's Mazar Road, three to four vans can be seen running an off-beat food business. Throughout the week, especially on the weekends, sellers set up shop with an offering of delicacies, all at dirt-cheap price.

From biryani to firmi, their "menu" consists of everything one would hope to find at the most lavish wedding events. Yet, none of the items cross the Tk 200-300 mark, and herein lies the twist.

The concept of the business is to buy extra or discarded food from wedding events, doa mahfils, and



even from restaurants, and sell it back to those who don't have the good fortune to access these events.

Visiting the area on a Friday, this correspondent spoke to three such traders.

One of them, a woman choosing to remain anonymous, has been engaged in this trade for the last three decades. "It started with my parents. Back then, you could buy a tukri [basket] of 50 kg food at a meagre sum of Tk 100. We would resell it at double the price."

"We didn't have fridges back then. If the food got wasted, you threw it away," she continued. "This was especially true since the food that came in wasn't very good to begin with. It came unsorted and rarely had whole pieces of meat. Each plate would go for Tk 1-2, with primary customers being rickshaw-pullers and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Roaring flames ravaged the Halishahar-Warehouse kitchen market yesterday, leaving many owners devastated, since they solely depended on their businesses for their survival. Once the fire was doused, tradesmen were seen desperately rummaging through the remains of their belongings.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Burnt to ashes

Fire guts 46 shops at Ctg kitchen market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

"The fire took everything away from me; it left me with nothing. My son's dream is now over. How will we pay off our debt?" said 55-year-old Dolan Rani Pal, who was wailing in front of her cloth shop, or where it used to stand.

The shop at the port city's Halishahar-Warehouse kitchen market was burnt to ashes yesterday morning.

"After mortgaging gold ornaments, I had taken Tk 5 lakh to open the shop. But the fire burned everything in front of my eyes," she said, with her voice choking.

Like Rani, 46 shop owners were going through the same emotions, as their

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

No Rash Mela from this year on

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The traditional Rash Mela, held on the occasion of Rash Purnima in Dublar Char (Alorkol) of the Sundarbans, is being cancelled from this year on, with the aim to conserve the biodiversity of the mangrove forest.

In a letter sent from the Cabinet Division, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has provided instructions in this regard. Letters have also been sent to the deputy commissioners of coastal districts.

Though this year's event will not be held on the previously marked November 17 to 19, religious activities for Hindu devotees, like holy baths or Punyasnan, and traditional worship rituals will be held at other times, officials said.

Khulna Regional Forest Conservator Mihir Kumar told the Daily Star, "The spot where the fair is held falls under a reserved forest. Thousands of people go there on occasion of the fair and ruin the forest's biodiversity."

"However, Hindu devotees will be allowed to go there during the time," he added.

This is the third year the fair will not be held, as it was cancelled in 2019 due to the cyclone Bulbul and in 2020 due to the pandemic.

According to the Forest Department, this year, devotees will start their journey from Bagerhat's Mongla towards Alorkol by boat on the occasion of Rash Puja on the morning of November 18.

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Noor Hossain Day today

BSS, Dhaka

Shaheed Noor Hossain Day, a red-letter day in restoration of democracy in Bangladesh, is being observed today with due solemnity.

On this day in 1987, Noor Hossain, who imprinted his bare chest and back with the slogan "Swairachar nipat jak, gonotrantra mukti pak" (down with autocracy, let

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

What action taken against them?

HC on 206 Gazipur medical centres without clearance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know what steps have been taken against 206 private hospitals and diagnostic centres in Gazipur which have no environmental clearance certificates.

The court also ordered the DGs of DGHS and DoE to submit a report in 60 days.

The HC issued a rule in this regard. The environment secretary, DGs of DGHS and DoE and four officials were made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah came up with the order and rule.

CHILD ELECTROCUTED IN BARISHAL

HC issues rule over compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in two weeks why they should not be directed to give adequate compensation to seven-year-old Md Zubayer Rahman from Barishal's Muladi who lost his hands in electrocution.

Energy and resources secretary, chairman of Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, general manager of Bangladesh Pally Bidyut Samity and 11 other officials concerned have been made respondents to the rule.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman issued the rule and order following a petition filed by Zubayer's father Tofazzal Hossain seeking its order on respondents to give him Tk 2 crore as compensation. Petitioner's lawyer Abdullah Al Mahub said Zubayer was electrocuted on October 15. An electricity line was illegally set over a two-storey house of the petitioner although he earlier applied to the office concerned to relocate the cable line. Zubayer was admitted to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery for treatment, but his left hand had to be amputated and his right hand became out of order, the lawyer said.

On Monday, the same HC bench issued a rule asking authorities to explain in a week why they should not be directed to give compensation to Raqibuzzaman (7) from Sakhira who lost his right hand and leg after being electrocuted.

'EC to blame'

Says GM Quader on failure to prevent violence centring UP polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has completely failed to maintain law and order situation in the ongoing Union Parishad elections, said Jatiya Party Chairman and deputy leader of the opposition GM Quader yesterday.

In a statement, the JP chairman said attacks, counter attacks and shootings over the elections have become a daily occurrence. These incidents of murder (during the UP elections) have created panic among people... They do not want to see bloodshed during elections."

GM Quader said the second and third phases of union parishad elections are going on across the country. "Union parishad

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Grazing the surface of a parked bus, a woman carrying her child squeezes by a passenger shade built on a narrow footpath in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday. The structure, meant to help passengers wait for the bus, exposes passers-by to the potential risk of accidents.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Indian HC holds logo competition for Maitree Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The deadline for participating in the Maitree Diwas Logo and Backdrop Design Competition has been extended to November 13.

Bangladesh and India will jointly celebrate "Maitree Diwas (Friendship Day)" in 18 countries on December 6, marking 50 years of Bangladesh's independence and 50th anniversary of Bangladesh-India diplomatic relations.

The contest will take place in two categories: one for logo and the other for backdrop design. The first prize for both categories is \$1,000 and 2nd, 3rd and consolation prizes would be \$700, \$500 and \$200.

On December 6, 1971, India recognised an independent Bangladesh, according to a circular of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

An entry could be by an individual or team project, provided that participating team members are all nationals of India or Bangladesh, or both. Details will be found at the websites of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and High Commission of India, Dhaka.

Enayetullah Khan's death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 16th death anniversary of Enayetullah Khan, founding editor of the daily New Age and editor-in-chief of the weekly Holiday.

Enayetullah Khan passed away in Canada on November 10, 2005, aged 66. He had been suffering from cancer of the pancreas.

He began his journalism career as a cub reporter for the then Pakistan Observer in 1959.

Enayetullah founded the daily New Age as its editor and publisher in June 2003.

He was also the editor of the Bangladesh Times between 1975 and 1977. He was awarded the Ekushey Padak for excellence in journalism.

He was president of Jatiya Press Club during 1973-76. Born on May 25, 1939 in Mymensingh, Enayetullah Khan was the third son of the late Justice Abdul Jabbar Khan, a former speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly.



Hawkers selling a range of household and perishable items have hogged space in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital's emergency gate, creating an obstacle for people going in and out of the hospital. This photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Noor Hossain Day today

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democracy be freed), was gunned down when police opened fire on an anti-autocracy demonstration in Dhaka's Zero Point.

This place was renamed "Noor Hossain Chattar (square)". The martyrdom of Noor Hossain and others during the mass upsurge of late 1990s expedited the anti-autocracy movement.

In the face of the movement, autocratic ruler HM Ershad had to step down on December 6, 1990.

To observe the day in a befitting manner, different socio-cultural and professional organisations, as well as Awami League, have chalked out elaborate programmes.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the eve of the day.

President Hamid, in his message, said November 10 is an important day in the history of movement for democracy. "I recall all the martyrs with respect, including Noor Hossain, who embraced martyrdom for the country's democracy," the president said.

In her message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the country's democracy was restored through the sacrifice of the lives of many.

She prayed for eternal peace of the departed souls of all martyrs, including Noor Hossain, and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members. In a separate statement, Awami League general secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader urged all, including party units across the country, associate and likeminded organisations to observe the day in a befitting manner.

Burnt to ashes

FROM PAGE 3

Sources of business were gutted too, after the fire broke out. Shopkeepers alleged that all this happened due to the market committee's indifference. According to them, the owners had complained to the committee about faulty electric lines five days ago, but the committee did nothing.

The market was built there a year ago, and footpath vendors shifted their business to the establishment, said locals.

Newton Das, assistant director of Chattogram Fire Service and Civil Defence's Agrabad headquarters, said the fire broke out around 9:30am. Three firefighting units had rushed to the spot and doused the flames after one and a half hours.

"The cause of the fire and the extent of losses could not be known immediately," he said.

Shahid Uddin Eskander's death anniversary

CITY DESK

The 43rd death anniversary of Shahid Uddin Eskander (Kochi), an organiser of the 1971 Liberation War, member of Constituent Assembly, president of Noakhali District Awami League and chairman of Noakhali Pourschava, will be observed today, said a press release.

On the occasion, different political, cultural, social and sports organisations, and his family have arranged a doa mahfil in Noakhali after Zohr prayers, added the press release.

Shahid Uddin Eskander was also the founder president of Noakhali Press Club and Noakhali District Chamber of Commerce and Industries, secretary of Noakhali District Sports Association, and chairman of Noakhali District Red Cross.

Death anniversary of Abdul Awal

CITY DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Md Abdul Awal, a retired engineer of Bangladesh Railway, said a press release.

On the occasion, the family will arrange a Quran recitation programme at his village home and prayers at different mosques. His relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programmes to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

A little late, but it finds

FROM PAGE 3

construction workers from the area." With the business trajectory, a lot of things could be learned about the country's socioeconomic change over the years.

"Meat started coming in at the turn of the millennium. Deep fridges were added in the last 10 years. The same customers now earn more, and they want better food, not just 'jhuta' (discarded food)."

"As long as it doesn't smell, rickshaw-pullers are willing to pay even Tk 100 for a small bowl of mutton," she said.

But there's controversy surrounding the way they resell discarded food, often days after its cooked. Asked, the seller didn't hesitate to answer, "I understand your concern, but if the food really was rotten, we wouldn't be able to continue our business for three decades. We've never had any complaints. In the past, there used to be 10-12 traders here, but none of them are here anymore."

"Don't you eat reheated, jhuta food at home? We see it the same way. Only if you think about it too much, it becomes an issue," she said.

"This kind of business has been going on since after the independence," she said, adding, "In the past, they used to pull in big crowds. While customers have thinned, the crowd is still there when the food comes in first, when it's freshest."

On the topic of profits, she said, "Of course we make profits, otherwise we wouldn't survive. Fridays bring us the most profits; we buy food worth Tk 15,000-20,000 and make at least Tk 2,000-3,000 surplus. On weekdays we buy food worth Tk 1,500-2,000, mostly from restaurants."

"We endured a really rough patch during the pandemic. There were no events, and restaurants were shut down. We took out loans to survive."

Besides Mazar Road, there are at least four other places in Dhaka where this business sprouted. At Mohakhali (near icddr, beyond the rail crossing), Shahzadpur, Jatiya Press Club and Jatrabari. Karwan Bazar used to be a hub too, but it's dried up as food prices increased.

There's two types of jhuta: one that's lumped together at the end of a programme and another that comes in well sorted. The former doesn't go for much, Tk 10-20 per plate at max. The latter is the real deal -- bought for Tk 100 per kg, sold for double the price.

The woman informed that the supplies come in around 5pm to 7pm. When there aren't enough customers,

JU entry tests begin

JU CORRESPONDENT

The honours first year entry test of Jahangirnagar University for the 2020-2021 session began yesterday with the presence of 66 percent candidates.

The "D" unit test started at 9am and continued till 4pm in five shifts, where around 7,000 admission-seekers participated in each shift.

"Around 66 percent of the candidates took part in the test," said Abdul Jabber Hawlader, dean of the biological sciences faculty.

JU pro vice chancellors Prof Sheikh Manzurul Huq and Prof Nurul Alam, and treasurer Prof Rasheda Akhter visited the exam centres yesterday.

The second day of D unit test is scheduled to be held today.

Meanwhile, the university authorities deferred "A" unit exam to November 20 and 21 from November 7 and 8 due to the recent transport strike.

No Rash Mela

FROM PAGE 3

The puja will be held on November 18, and devotees will start departing after bathing in the early hours of November 19.

According to Forest Department sources, around 50,000 people from all over the country flock to the fair. The situation often goes beyond the control of the department, which does not have enough staffers.

However, Nazmul Alam David, general secretary of a tour operators association in the forest, decried the decision. "It's a festive occasion. People from all religions should be allowed there," he told The Daily Star.

Rash Purnima, the day of full moon in the Bangla month of Kartik, is celebrated as the moment of union between the Hindu God Lord Krishna and his beloved Radha.

'EC to blame'

FROM PAGE 3

elections were once held in a festive atmosphere, now they have become a nightmare. But the Election Commission is indifferent, as if they have nothing to do..." he said.

GM Quader said several incidents of murder have already taken place in the country. Criminals hacked to death two brothers in Kathuli union of Gangni upazila in Meherpur.

In a statement, the JP chief further said the EC should take stringent measures to prevent electoral violence.

Include food safety

FROM PAGE 3

food testing laboratories in the divisions is at the final stage. The government has taken massive programmes to train people involved in food production and management.

BFSa chairman Abdul Kayowm Sarker requested the media to play proactive role to create awareness on safe food.

Savar's Hemayetpur, said, "I have four children. There's no way I can run the family with just my formal income. I do this to supplement my earnings. While waiters get tips, we at the kitchen have nothing. On usual days, I can earn around Tk 500-700 with this."

The menu includes mutton, chicken curry, rezala, chicken roast, kebabs, borhani, jarda, firni, polau, white rice, tehari, biryani and more.

Fresh tehari goes for Tk 50 per plate, but if it's a little stale, the price comes down to Tk 20. Most people buy the food to share it with family.

A woman from Aminbazar said that she comes here every Friday. Her



Leftover curries and biryani, which are sourced from wedding events and restaurants, are regularly displayed for potential customers. PHOTO: STAR

Competition persists in the business as well. Once the food comes in, the sellers ask for a high price. Later, 3-4 traders compete between themselves to buy the food, and the highest bidder takes the prize.

Besides community centres and restaurants, there's the big fish: Hotel Sonargaon, Sheraton, and the like. At these hotels, there's a tender for wasted food every year. The food goes for multiple lakhs (Tk 40-50 lakh).

Fascinatingly, a youth standing by the roadside asked this correspondent, "How many times have you eaten from Sonargaon? I am a regular."

Meanwhile, one trader said kitchen staffers often put aside fresh food before they're served. Additionally, food that's saved due to under-attendance makes its way to the vans too.

The waiters/assistant earn around Tk 800 per day cooking for the community centres. On average, they get three paydays per week, which isn't nearly enough to sustain their families. One such cook, who lives in

family includes herself, her truck driver husband, and their three children.

She tries to get there before evening, when the food is freshest. Interestingly, as a former community centre staffer herself, she knows the ins and outs of the business. "In a glance, I can tell apart the jhuta from the fresh," she said.

She said buying from here is cheaper for her than if she had to cook the same food herself. For example, to buy and cook half a kg of beef, she would have to spend Tk 450.

"Here, two bowls of beef, around 1.5 kg, is sold for Tk 500. Add Tk 20 worth of fare, and that's it," she said, adding that she's been buying from here for the last 6-7 years.

The sellers said they're proud of their profession. "We supply good food to those who can't afford it. We prevent food from getting wasted. We're proud to be the reason why a day-labourer gets to eat food from Raowa Club or Sonargaon," said another seller from the area.

Forklift for Sale (2)
Used-3 Years,
Brand- XCMG,
Location- Barisal.
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4 storied Full building Total
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with 24 hours Security Guard
& under CCTV surveillance.
Please Cont: 01711-525563,
email: dilan@capital-bd.com

Dengue claims
FROM PAGE 3
in May and the rest are from
January to April. According to
DGHS, 96 people have
died of dengue infection in
the country this year.

Meghna Petroleum Limited
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
58-59, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chattogram

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP Portal for the procurement of the following goods, details are given below:

S/N	Tender ID	Procurement title	Tender last selling (date & time)	Closing & opening (date & time)	Procurement method
1.	624701 (Pur:026)	Printing Stationery, SA-01 Pad for Office Use	23 November, 2021; 17:00 Hrs.	24 November, 2021; 15:00 Hrs.	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
2.	624702 (Pur:027)	Printing Stationery, SA-02 Pad for Office Use	23 November, 2021; 17:00 Hrs.	24 November, 2021; 15:30 Hrs.	
3.	624703 (Pur:028)	Procurement of Office Stationery for A & F and Head Office, Ctg.	24 November, 2021; 17:00 Hrs.	25 November, 2021; 15:00 Hrs.	
4.	624704 (Pur:029)	Procurement of Hardware Items (Fire Fly Gasket) for MI, Ctg. and Up Country Depots	24 November, 2021; 17:00 Hrs.	25 November, 2021; 15:30 Hrs.	

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).
GD-2034

Asian Development Bank
ADB
Bangladesh Resident Mission
Plot E-31, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka 1207 Tel: 02-55667000

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

The Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) intends to employ a service provider for General Maintenance Services through a team of 16-outsourced personnel for its office. Details of qualification criteria, scope of services, and work performance statement provided in the bidding document.

Interested service providers/bidders may collect the bidding document from ADB BRM at Plot-E-31, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka during 10:00AM to 5:00PM from 10 November 2021 to 8 December 2021 except holidays and weekends (Friday and Saturday), and may also obtain bidding document by email from the Chairperson, BRM Institutional Procurement Committee: tlimbu@adb.org. Sealed bids must be submitted in original at ADB-BRM on or before 3:00PM BST on 9 December 2021.

Bangladesh must

FROM PAGE 3

not one that only concerns Bangladesh, he added.

Dr Kawser Ahmed, executive director of BCBS, said a peaceful solution to both the Myanmar and Rohingya problem is a must. "Military intervention or mere sanctions are not going to bring real solutions. There should be a peace process underway."

He said economically, Bangladesh has now become a strong country, and big regional powers like China, Japan and India have much stake in Bangladesh. Therefore, Dhaka should go for a strong diplomatic push to address the crisis.

Former Election Commissioner and security expert Brig Gen (ret'd) M Shakhawat Hussain said all major powers have business interests in Myanmar, and despite the Myanmar military's abuses of power, these countries are not taking any harsh actions.

Meanwhile, the National Unity Government has also not been recognised by any of the countries, he further said.

He thinks the Rohingyas in Bangladesh are not going to go back to their country anytime soon, unless there is a major change in regional geopolitics.

Security expert Lt Gen (ret'd) Mainul Islam observed that Bangladesh is in a very tight condition, because of regional geopolitics. There should be incentives created for the three major countries -- China, India and Japan -- for resolving the crisis.

BIISS Director General Md Emdad Ul Bari, its senior research fellow Abu Salah Md Yousuf, and Bangladesh High Commissioner to Canada Khalil Rahman, among others, spoke at the webinar.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
মতিঝিল অফিস
ঢাকা

ঊষধ প্রস্তুতকারী ও সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক মতিঝিল ঢাকা অফিসে বিভিন্ন প্রকারের ঊষধ সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে (০৩ বছর মেয়াদে) তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য প্রকৃত ঊষধ প্রস্তুতকারী কোম্পানি ও সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আবেদনপত্রের ফরম ও শর্তাবলী বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক মতিঝিল অফিসের কল্যাণ শাখা (প্রথম সংলগ্নী ভবনের ৩য় তলা) হতে নগদ টাঃ ৩,০০০/- (টাকা তিন হাজার মাত্র) (অফেরতযোগ্য) বিনিময়ে ১৪-১১-২০২১ তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা থেকে ০২-১২-২০২১ তারিখ বিকেল ৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ক্রয় করা যাবে।

অত্র ঊষধ প্রস্তুতকারী কোম্পানি/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে তাদের লিখিত আবেদনপত্র ০৮-১২-২০২১ তারিখ ৩.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ১ম সংলগ্নী ভবনের ৩য় তলায় অবস্থিত উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন-৬) মহোদয়ের কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তব দাখিল করতে হবে এবং একই দিনে বেলা ৩.৩০ ঘটিকার উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকে) টেন্ডার বাস্তব খোলা হবে। বিদ্যমান তালিকাভুক্ত ঊষধ কোম্পানি/প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকেও নতুনভাবে তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে হবে। তালিকাভুক্তির সময় প্রতিটি কোম্পানি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে টাঃ ৩,০০,০০০/- (টাকা তিন লক্ষ মাত্র) মহাব্যবস্থাপক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা এর বরাবর ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে জমানত হিসেবে জমা রাখতে হবে (যা মেয়াদ শেষে ফেরতযোগ্য)। অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

ব্যাকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হেরারনির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

নির্মল কুমার সরকার
মহাব্যবস্থাপক
ফোনঃ ৯৫৩০৪১৪

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২১-৩৬১৫
তারিখঃ ০৯/১১/২০২১
জিডি-২০৩৬



An area near the Kuakata sea beach in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila. Concrete blocks have been laid along the shoreline as part of a Tk 1,089.95-crore project to strengthen 208 kilometres of existing embankments in three districts on the southern seaboard of the country.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Southern levee improvement project nears completion

62 percent of the Tk 1,090-crore project completed till October this year

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The reinforcing and heightening work of old coastal embankments in Pirojpur, Barguna and Patuakhali is going on in full swing, with the completion deadline of June 2022.

The work started on July 19, 2017 and 62 percent of it has been completed till this October, said AKM Mujibur Rahman, the supervising engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

Chinese contractor firm Chongqing International Construction Corporation is carrying out the BWDB project, titled 'Coastal Embankment Improvement Project (CEIP)'.
As part of the project, the BWDB is spending Tk 1,089.95 crore to raise the height of a 208-kilometre stretch of existing earthen embankments -- built in the 60s along the coastlines of the three districts -- from 6 metres to 7.5 metres, said Mujibur, the BWDB engineer.

Beginning at Bhandaria of Pirojpur and ending at Galachipa of Patuakhali, the embankments run along the shorelines of Patharghata in Barguna and Kalapara in Patuakhali, to create a semi-circular shield of protection from tidal surges or rise in sea level.

In addition, concrete blocks are being used along the shores to reinforce the levees where six sluice gates and three inlets are being built.

In Patuakhali, 38 kilometres of levees -- along the shores of Kalapara and Galachipa upazilas -- are being reinforced and heightened at a cost of Tk 136.78 crore.

Once completed, the improved embankments will help protect a significant number of installations on the country's southern seaboard, including tourist hotspots like Kuakata, from rising sea level due to the effects of climate change, Mujibur added.

During a recent visit, a large

area on the beach of Kuakata -- in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila -- was seen covered in neatly arranged concrete blocks.

Shahjahan Akon, a local, said he hoped that the improved levee will save croplands and houses in the area from recurring destruction.

Aside from protecting the popular beach, the embankment will be an added attraction to tourists, said Khan Intiaz Hossain, who was visiting the area from Barisal.

Now that the improved embankment is taking shape, there is a ray of hope for local tourism industry, which has been under threat due to continued erosion of the beach, said Motaleb Sharif, general secretary of 'Kuakata Hotel Motel Owners' Association'.

Anwar Hossain Hawladar, mayor of Kuakata municipality, hoped that the levee will bring respite to townspeople from flooding and tidal surges.

20-metre of embankment collapses in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A portion of an embankment has gone into the Bangshi due to untimely erosion by the river in Fatepur union of Mirzapur upazila, threatening schools, market and other establishments.

As a result, local people are now passing each day in fear as the whole embankment may go into the river anytime.

Haat Fatepur High School, Haat Fatepur Bazar and other establishments including Fatepur union parishad, union land office, a sub health centre, a madrasa and Fatepur-Mohera-Mirzapur road lie beside the river.

If emergency protective measures are not taken by the authorities immediately, the river may devour those establishments anytime, said villagers.

In the 2013-2014 fiscal year, Water Development Board (WDB) constructed a 165-metre guide embankment at a cost of Tk 2 crore to protect the area from the river erosion.

Yasin Ali, night guard of Haat Fatepur High School, said 20-metre stretch of the embankment collapsed near the school on Sunday night.

Farid Hossain, headmaster of the school, said he informed the executive engineer of the Tangail WDB the following day about the matter and requested him

to take necessary measures to protect the institution from the erosion.

"We have also informed the matter to the upazila administration and urged them to take immediate measures to protect the school, market and other establishments in the area from the untimely erosion," said Abdul Gafur Shikder, president of the managing committee of Haat Fatepur High School.

In 2013-2014 fiscal year, WDB constructed a 165-metre guide embankment at a cost of Tk 2 crore to protect the area from erosion.

Mirzapur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Hafizur Rahman said necessary protective measures will be taken as early as possible following discussion with the WDB and higher authorities.

Mohammad Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of WDB in Tangail, said an assistant engineer has already visited the spot. Emergency protective measures will be taken immediately.



With erosion by the Bangshi river, part of an embankment has collapsed near Haat Fatepur High School in Fatepur union of Tangail's Mirzapur upazila, creating panic among locals.

PHOTO: STAR

Cop held with heroin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Dinajpur court yesterday sent a policeman to jail in connection with a case for posing heroin.

Earlier, the law enforcers detained Aminul Islam, 35 a constable at Madhyapara Police Investigation Centre in Dinajpur's Parbatipur upazila, along with 40kg heroin on Monday.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Hakimpur Police Station Khairul Bashar Shamim said, acting on a tip-off, the raided Aminul's rented house at Chandipur village in Hakimpur upazila around 4:30pm and seized 40g of heroin from his possession.

Aminul, son of Abu Hanif of Khatramari village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, has been recently transferred to Madhyapara IC from Hamimpur Police Station, the OC added.

73 sacks of govt rice seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-12) seized 73 sacks of rice, meant for the government's food friendly programme, from Delduar upazila yesterday.

The law enforcers also detained two people for hoarding the rice illegally and selling those in the black market. Lt Commander Abdullah Al Mamun, commander of Crime Prevention Company-3 of Rab-12, said, acting on a tip-off, they raided a jute warehouse at Silimpur Bazar and seized 73 sacks (each sack containing 30kg) rice meant for the poor from there.

They also arrested Abdul Aziz, 60, of Belta village, and Mohammad Sohel, 28, of Charpara village of Tangail Sadar upazila, from the spot.

3 held over gang rape in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police have arrested three men for their alleged involvement in the gang-rape of a minor girl in Faridpur Sadar upazila.

In a press conference at Faridpur Kotwali Police Station, Jamal Pasha, additional superintendent of police in Faridpur, confirmed yesterday.

The arrestees are Akash Sheikh, 18, and Roni Sheikh, 18, of Aijuddin Matubbar Dangi village and Shipon Sheikh, 19, of Purbadangi village in the upazila, said police.

According to police, Akash Sheikh picked up the victim in a battery-run three-wheeler around 10:00pm on

Sunday. Three others helped him.

They then took the girl to a garlic field in a nearby village and raped her. Later, they left the girl there.

The victim returned home and shared her experience with her mother. She was then sent to Faridpur Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College Hospital on early Monday.

The victim's father filed a case with Kotwali Police Station against Sheikh and other unidentified four men under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act on early Tuesday.

Later, police arrested Akash from Tapakhola area on the same day and later arrested Roni and Shipon.

Eng v NZ promises another epic

FROM PAGE 12

on the back of Kane Williamson's mind.

The Kiwis went on to lose the final after the regulation 50 overs and the super over produced ties, with the result being decided in favour of England due to them having scored more boundaries during the 50 overs.

Williamson, however, had mentioned after the final that they didn't lose the game, and probably when the two sides meet again today, the fans won't rule out the possibility of another nail-biting finish.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has since changed the rule, with the game now to be decided only by the super over and not by the percentage of boundaries scored by teams if a match eventually ends in a tie.

New Zealand head coach Gary Stead informed that the ghosts of the 2019 won't haunt them in their semifinal clash

against England.

From being knocked out by Bangladesh in the group stage of the 2015 World Cup to becoming the World Champions in the 2019 World Cup and becoming the number one T20I side -- the rise of England, especially in the white ball format, clearly reflects the result of long-term planning.

Eoin Morgan and Co have adopted a fearless brand of cricket where the attacking mindset from each individual sets them apart from the others in world cricket.

It is going to be an interesting battle between the Kiwi swing bowlers in the powerplay with Trent Boult, Tim Southee and Adam Milne against a high-flying England top-order, which has the scoring rate of 8.33 in the power play -- the best in the tournament so far.

Jos Buttler, who scored the only century of the ongoing World Cup and is

also the second-highest run-getter of the tournament, will surely have a big role to play in absence of Jason Roy, who was ruled out due to a calf injury.

England will also miss injured Tymal Mills -- their main weapon in the death overs -- while New Zealand skipper Williamson has also remained cautious due to his complex elbow injury for quite some time.

The battle between the spinners of the two sides is also going to be a sight to behold, with leg-spinners Ish Sodhi and Adil Rashid set to play crucial roles for New Zealand and England respectively.

Both New Zealand and England had managed to overcome the hurdles of tough UAE conditions where hot and humid weather didn't hold them back from playing their own game and fans can definitely expect fireworks in the night game starting at 8pm tonight.

UN Mission may withdraw

FROM PAGE 12

steadily escalating level of fighting there threatened to make the mission's job impossible, reported the Baltimore Sun.

Baltimore Sun correspondent, John Woodruff, reporting from Dhaka said Paul-Marc Henry, the UN Assistant Secretary-General who headed the mission in Bangladesh, was having trouble in reaching liberated areas without new arrangements involving permission from the Bangladesh Government. Many foreign correspondents also reported that at least a quarter of the total land of Bangladesh was now under control of the Government of Bangladesh.

Woodruff also pointed out that the West Pakistani Generals in Bangladesh not yet agreed to let the UN mission distribute food directly to the people.

14-YEAR JAIL

Jail terms of 14 years' rigorous imprisonment was handed down to each of 55 civil servants who had fled Pakistan following the March crackdown, a military source

announced. All the accused were tried in absentia by a military court in East Pakistan. Four senior professors of Dhaka and Rajshahi Universities were among those convicted.

ON THE WAR FRONT

In the Khulna-Jashore-Kushtia sector, Mukti Bahini made surprise raids today on para-military camps of the enemy at Shakura and Mohanpur. Several enemy irregulars were killed in the action. Mukti Bahini captured 57 rifles and guns from these camps.

Mukti Bahini blew up train carrying occupation troops by explosion of mines near Kurigram today. In that action 8 Pakistani soldiers including one officer were killed and eight bogies of the train were damaged. On the same day another vehicle carrying Pakistani troops from Kurigram to Chilmari was ambushed by the freedom fighters. In that action two Pakistani soldiers, 3 Razakars and the driver of the vehicle were killed.

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

Banned on nat'l, regional highways

FROM PAGE 12

ministries, we will hold an inter-ministerial meeting before finalising the draft," Yousub Ali Mollah, additional secretary (estate wing) of RTHD, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Necessary procedures would be followed before making the guideline functional, he added.

WHY THE GUIDELINE?

Total 48.69 lakh vehicles got registered with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) until September this year, of them 3.19 vehicles are three-wheelers.

But a good number of unregistered three-wheelers like easy-bike, Nasimon and Karimon are being operated on roads, and the number of the vehicles are increasing day by day.

"But such small, unregistered and unapproved vehicles are not technically safe for operation. Safety units of the vehicles, including brake, steering, and suspension, are not standard," reads the draft guideline.

Besides, operations of such slow-moving vehicles alongside speedy vehicles on highways often cause accidents and as per different reports, most victims of road

accidents were passengers of such vehicles, it added.

A total of 3,095 people were killed in 3,259 road crashes in the first seven months of this year -- over 40 percent higher than that of the same period last year, according to a police report.

The country saw the sharp rise in road crashes even though operations of bus and minibuses remained suspended for long this year due to Covid-19 shutdown.

Experts blamed plying of a huge number of small vehicles on highways for the sharp rise in casualties.

"In this situation, operations of such small vehicles should be controlled.

However, the vehicles are being used by a large number of people as cost-effective vehicles," reads the draft.

In June 2019, RTHD formed a 12-member committee to make recommendations how to control these vehicles. Besides, they were asked to give opinions how the vehicles can be kept in operation in particular areas by improving their technical standard.

The committee submitted its report in January this year and another committee led by BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad

Mazumder prepared the draft guideline.

WHAT THE GUIDELINE FURTHER SAYS? As per the draft, upon receiving the route permit, "auto-rickshaw and auto-tempo" would be operated in a particular area except the national and regional highways.

A government committee would set the number of the vehicles for a particular area and the fare.

Battery-run easy-bike can run on upazila and union level routes after taking route permit.

The easy-bike can be allowed on the alleys in city corporation areas and district towns for just two years after the guideline comes into effect. These would not be permitted there after that.

Locally-made three-wheelers like Nasimon and Karimon can also ply upazila and union level routes.

All such three-wheelers must have registration, route permit, fitness clearance and tax token from the competent authorities. Prior permission from the concerned authorities would be required to sell the vehicles.

Drivers would wear particular uniforms and must have licences, the draft mentions.

Pay up

FROM PAGE 12

said he believed the question was premature.

"I don't think the discussion is at that stage yet," he told reporters at the Glasgow summit. "We do not know yet what loss and damage actually is, how it is different from adaptation. We are poking in the dark here."

EU climate policy chief Frans Timmermans told reporters the bloc supported efforts to "get money where it needs to be as quickly as possible" but that work still needed to be done to get the details right.

A representative of the US

delegation at the conference did not respond to a request for comment.

Meanwhile, an updated UN assessment said yesterday that new national emissions-cutting pledges -- including a vow last week by India to be carbon neutral by 2070 -- are likely to have a minimal effect on temperature rises this century.

In its annual Emissions Gap report last month, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) had said current decarbonisation plans -- known as nationally determined contributions, or NDCs -- put the world on track to warm 2.7C this century.

PM in Paris

FROM PAGE 12

Upon her arrival at the Matignon, French Prime Minister Jean Castex will receive her with a bouquet of flowers.

Sheikh Hasina arrived here in the morning from London to attend the 75th Anniversary of UNESCO and distribute the first-ever UNESCO-Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman International Prize for Creative Economy.

During the Paris tour, Hasina will also have meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron and French Prime Minister Jean Castex.

Today, Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury

and Dassault Aviation president Eric Trappier, Thales president Patrice Caine will call on her at her place of residence.

She will have a meeting with a high-profile delegate of French business organisation MEDEF's.

French Minister Florence Parly will also meet her.

Later in the day, she will visit the French Senate where she will receive an official reception during the ongoing Senate Session.

On November 11, Hasina will attend the Paris Peace Forum.

Later, she will go to attend the Unesco-

Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman International Prize for the Creative Economy at Unesco Headquarters. From there she will go to Elysée Palace to attend the dinner to be hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron in honour of her.

On November 12, Hasina will go to the Paris Peace Forum and attend a high-level panel discussion on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

She will also go to the Unesco Headquarters to attend the inaugural session of the 75th Founding anniversary of Unesco and deliver her speech there.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12

me that 1499,270 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine will come from the King Salman Relief Fund," Momen said in a message from Paris yesterday.

The vaccine doses will arrive in Dhaka by the next two to three days, the minister said.

Poland will provide 3.3 million AstraZeneca vaccine doses to Bangladesh free of cost, he said, adding that these are being shipped. Poland donated these vaccine doses through the European Union.

India tourist

FROM PAGE 12

under all categories save for tourist visas.

In 2020, more than 1.6 million visas were issued by the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh.

About 20 percent of the foreign arrivals in India last year were from Bangladesh, which is the highest.

Bangladesh was followed by the US (14.4 percent) and the UK (10.6 percent).

Trash

FROM PAGE 12

They are all carrying trash bags and Raden's three-wheeler quickly fills up with them as the books fly out. She's happy the kids are going to spend less time on online games as a result.

"Let us build a culture of literacy from young age to mitigate the harm of the online world," Raden said. "We should also take care of our waste in order to fight climate change and to save the earth from trash," Raden said.

She collects about 100 kg (220 lbs) of waste each week, which is then sorted out by her colleagues and sent for recycling or sold. She has a stock of 6,000 books to lend and wants to take the mobile service to neighbouring areas as well.

Kevin Alamsyah, an avid 11-year-old reader, scours for waste lying in the village. "When there is too much trash, our environment will become dirty and it's not healthy. That's why I look for trash to borrow a book," he says.

MORE NEWS

Facebook can pursue lawsuit against NSO Group: US court

A US appeals court said Facebook can pursue a lawsuit accusing Israel's NSO Group of exploiting a bug in its WhatsApp messaging app to install malware allowing the surveillance of 1,400 people, including journalists, human rights activists and dissidents. Facebook, now known as Meta Platforms Inc, sued NSO for an injunction and damages in October 2019, accusing it of accessing WhatsApp servers without permission six months earlier to install its Pegasus malware on victims' mobile devices. NSO has argued that Pegasus helps law enforcement and intelligence agencies fight crime and protect national security.

2 more killed in targeted attack in Indian Kashmir

Two people, including a police officer, have been shot dead in Indian-administered Kashmir — the latest in a series of targeted attacks in the disputed region that began last month. On Monday evening, Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, a resident of Astengo in Bandipora district, was critically wounded when suspected rebels fired at him near a grocery shop in Bohri Kadal area of the main city of Srinagar. Khan, who worked at the shop owned by a Kashmiri Hindu, succumbed to his injuries at a nearby hospital. Recently, a fresh wave of killings by suspected rebels has seen them targeting Kashmiri Hindus, known locally as Pandits, and non-Kashmiris, mainly migrant workers. Since last month, a total of 42 people, including 13 civilians, 19 suspected rebels and 10 soldiers, have been killed in the restive region.



At least 26 children die in Niger school fire

At least 26 children aged between five and six burnt to death on Monday when their straw and wood classrooms caught fire in southern Niger, seven months after a similar tragedy in the capital Niamey. Niger, one of the poorest countries in the world, has tried to fix shortages of school buildings by constructing thousands of straw and wood sheds to serve as classrooms, with children sometimes sitting on the ground. Fires in the highly flammable classrooms are common but rarely result in casualties. Three days of mourning have been declared in the Maradi region from today.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

'LOSS AND DAMAGE'

Not even on official negotiation agenda

AGENCIES

When countries first signed up to the COP negotiations process more than 30 years ago, climate change was viewed as a future problem.

Then in 2009 richer nations — historically responsible for the vast majority of plant-warming greenhouse gas emissions — vowed to provide \$100 billion annually by 2020.

The cash was earmarked for two tasks: mitigation, or helping countries to limit further warming by decarbonising their economies, and adaptation, helping them plan for higher seas and more intense downpours in the decades to come.

But today, with just 1.1C of warming so far, nations around the world are already being battered by extreme weather, with climate-linked disasters displacing tens of millions and inflicting hundreds of billions worth of damage.

Yet funding for loss and damage is not even on the official negotiation agenda in Glasgow.

The annual \$100 billion outlay promised for climate adaptation and mitigation will eventually be ready from 2022 or 2023 — several years behind schedule.

But loss and damage will soon dwarf that figure.

Studies show that damage inflicted by climate change could top \$500 billion a year by 2030.

An analysis by Christian Aid showed Monday that the 65 most vulnerable nations could see GDP drop 20 percent on average by 2050.

Yamide Dagmet, director of climate negotiations at the World Resources Institute, said that loss and damage is a touchy subject for developed nations, whose emissions have driven the destruction.

"It's mainly the rich countries' fear or even paranoia of liability or compensation," she said.

Asked whether the European Union should consider a loss and damage fund separate from funding for mitigation and adaptation, Juergen Zattler, head of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, on Monday said he believed the question was premature.

"I don't think the discussion is at that stage yet," he told reporters at the Glasgow summit. "We do not know yet what loss and damage actually is, how it is different from adaptation. We are poking in the dark here."

Like Mozambique after cyclones Idai and Kenneth, many countries have been forced into accepting loans to help recover after extreme events.

Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Fiji's minister for economy and climate change, said that had left nations mired in climate debt.

"It is akin to forcing us to fork out protection money to the mafia of fossil fuel investors, who are responsible for inflicting the terror of this crisis upon us," he said.



The 'lungs of the Earth' dying

The Amazon forest closes to 'tipping point' as it now emitting more carbon than it absorbs

AFP, Sao Felix do Xingu, Brazil

Something is wrong.

Holed up in her lab, Brazilian atmospheric chemist Luciana Gatti crunches her numbers again and again, thinking there is a mistake.

But the same bleak conclusion keeps popping up on her screen: the Amazon, the world's biggest rainforest — the "lungs of the Earth," the "green ocean," the thing humanity is counting on to inhale our pollution and save us from the mess we've made of the planet — is now emitting more carbon than it absorbs.

Splashed across South America in an exuberant blob of deep green, the Amazon basin is one of the world's great wildernesses, a place where life teems in the heat of the tropics, fed by the myriad rivers criss-crossing the jungle like blue blood vessels.

Home to more than three million species, the rainforest bursts with lush vegetation, which absorbs huge amounts of carbon through photosynthesis — a key fact as humankind struggles to stop heating the planet with greenhouse gases.

As carbon dioxide emissions have surged by 50 percent in 60 years, to nearly 40 billion tonnes worldwide, the Amazon has absorbed a large amount of that pollution — nearly two billion tonnes a year, until recently.

But humans have also spent the past half-century tearing down and burning whole swathes of the Amazon to make way for cattle ranches and farmland.

Gatti, who works at Brazil's national space agency, has been tracking how much carbon the region emits and absorbs, watching for signs of a looming nightmare: that the destruction could push the Amazon to a "tipping point" where much of the rainforest dries up and turns to savannah.

Climate scientists say passing that point would be catastrophic: instead of helping curb climate change, the Amazon would suddenly accelerate it. Plummeting rainfall would cause its trees to die off en masse, releasing up to a decade's worth of worldwide carbon emissions back into the atmosphere — and dooming our efforts to hold global warming somewhere near a livable limit.

In July, Gatti and her team published their grimmest findings yet, in the journal Nature.



First: the Amazon is now a net carbon source, mainly because of humans setting it on fire. Second: even subtracting emissions caused by fires, the southeastern Amazon is now a net carbon emitter.

Gatti's is one of several recent studies to sound a blaring alarm on the Amazon. It is based on data from 2010 to 2018.

Since then, the destruction has accelerated — especially in Brazil, home to 60 percent of the Amazon, where far-right President Jair Bolsonaro took office in 2019 with strong backing from the farm lobby, pushing to open protected lands and indigenous reservations to agribusiness and mining.

Under Bolsonaro, deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon has surged from an average of 6,500 square kilometers per year during the previous decade to around 10,000 — an area nearly the size of Lebanon.

Scientists say it is impossible to be sure just how close the rainforest now is to the tipping point. But Gatti's findings suggest we are teetering on the brink — if not tumbling over it already, at least in part of the Amazon.

According to one widely cited study, the Amazon will reach the tipping point when 20 to 25 percent of it is deforested. We are currently at 15 percent — up from six percent in 1985.

Of course blame for the Amazon's degraded state goes beyond Bolsonaro, and Brazil. Gatti, the atmospheric chemist, argues the whole world bears responsibility.

Illegal Amazon timber is exported to the United States and Europe. Massive quantities of beef produced on razed rainforest are shipped around the world. Soy grown in the Amazon helps feed cows, chickens and pigs across the globe.

Governments should ban those imports, Gatti says.

"If you want to protect the Amazon, stop consuming the products that fuel its destruction."

Erika Berenguer, an Amazon ecologist at Oxford and Lancaster universities, is one of the most prominent scientists studying how the rainforest functions when humans throw it off balance.

"That's the million-dollar question," she said when asked about the tipping point of Amazon.

"We'll never know the tipping point until we're past it. That's the definition of a tipping point. ... If we pass the tipping point, it's the end. And I don't say that lightly. We're talking about the most biodiverse place on the planet collapsing," she said adding millions and millions people in Brazil and billions around the world will be affected.

"We cannot live in a world without the Amazon."



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Kabul University campus before the Taliban took control of Afghanistan.

'We don't have a future'

Despite promises by the Taliban, Afghan female students see no hope

MOSTAFA SHABUJ

In Taliban's first news briefing since their return to power in Kabul, the group's spokesperson said the new regime would be "positively different" from their 1996-2001 stint, which was infamous for deaths by stoning, girls being banned from school and women from working in contact with men.

On August 17, two days after seizing power in a lightning offensive, the movement's main spokesman said women would be allowed to work and study.

But months have passed since then and the promises are now beginning to sound hollow. Despite the assurances, nearly a million of country's female-students' future looks bleak.

The Taliban have opened schools for both boys and girls. They have also allowed private universities to run classes. However, only a few students and teachers are attending those, signaling a deep-rooted fear among the educated Afghans for the hardened Islamist group.

Sana Tahah, 20, a second year student of the Kabul University at the Archeology and Anthropology Department, narrated how she hurried back home with her school-going sister when Kabul fell to the Taliban.

"At that evening, I thought everything we gained in last 20 years had been lost. Still I can't sleep at night," said Sana adding that her younger sister is still traumatised.

"She still shut all the windows and doors every time when she feels the Taliban are near our house to take us away."

Saiema Sultani, 23, a second year-student of the International Relations Department at the Kateb university, shared similar experiences.

"Although our university reopened, only around 10 percent of female students are attending classes. They are too afraid

to come."

She said the Taliban have divided the boys and girls by curtains in the classrooms.

The Taliban have told the UN that they are working on a framework which would allow the Afghan female students to attend the classes as they have to ensure their safety first.

"The reality is that the Taliban are just lying. They are acting that they have changed because they need the recognition from the international community. When they will get that they will force the women to stay home," said Saiema.

For 20-year-old Sofia Karimi, a second year student of the Law and Political Science Department at the Kabul University of the society before the latest Taliban rule wasn't an ideal one either. The women rights were only on papers and the society treated women no better than the Taliban.

But the legal rights, which Afghan women had to earn after the brutal Taliban rule which ended in 2001, built an air of freedom and promised a better future to fight for.

"But now we have no hope, no future," said Sofia, adding that most of the successful women are hiding after quitting their businesses and works to save themselves from the Taliban's wrath.

"If Taliban want to rule Afghanistan, I think they should allow women to study and work," she added.

Sana Tahah said how her life has been upended since August 15.

"I used to go to university, art classes. After that I used to volunteering in an orphanage to help the kids. I participated in sports too. But now, I am only spending worried days at home."

"It's not just me, it's happening to every girl of the county," said a dejected Sana Tahah.

Covid-19 pills no substitute for vaccines

Say disease experts

REUTERS, Chicago

Oral antiviral pills from Merck & Co and Pfizer Inc/BioNTech SE have been shown to significantly blunt the worst outcomes of Covid-19 if taken early enough, but doctors warn vaccine hesitant people not to confuse the benefit of the treatments with prevention afforded by vaccines.

While 72% of American adults have gotten a first shot of the vaccine, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation poll, the pace of vaccination has slowed, as political partisanship in the United States divides views on the value and safety of vaccines against the coronavirus.

Some disease experts fear the arrival of oral Covid-19 treatments may further impede vaccination campaigns. Preliminary results of a survey of 3,000 US citizens by the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Public Health suggest the drugs could "hamper the effort to get people vaccinated," said Scott Ratzan, an expert in health communication at CUNY, who led the research.

Ratzan said one out of every eight of those surveyed said they would rather get treated with a pill than be vaccinated. "That is a high number," Ratzan said.

The concern follows news on Friday from Pfizer, maker of a leading Covid-19 vaccine, that its experimental antiviral pill Paxlovid cut the risk of hospitalization and death from the disease by 89% in high-risk adults.

Six infectious disease experts interviewed by Reuters were enthusiastic about the prospect of effective new treatments for Covid-19 and agreed they were no substitute for vaccines.

ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Asian University for Women (AUW), an independent international university chartered by the Parliament of Bangladesh and located in the Port City of Chittagong is inaugurating a two-year Masters of Education course beginning on January 16th, 2022. The program is open to female candidates of origin from across the world who have completed at least a Bachelor of Arts or Sciences degree with excellent results. This course will be taught in the English language in a hybrid form within fully equipped digitalized classrooms featuring both remote delivery of classes from Johns Hopkins University, Cornell University and Boston College and in-person group discussions led by highly trained graduate teaching fellows.

The program is primarily geared towards young women from Bangladesh and throughout the region who aspire to become secondary school leaders — in classroom teaching, educational entrepreneurship and management in creating new schools within underserved locations including in refugee settlements and in remote areas where quality education remains inaccessible. The course will also prepare students to employ empirical data, technical and analytical skills with a predisposition to critical analysis, monitoring and evaluation of outcomes in order to conduct social and economic analyses as well as shape effective evidence-based education policies and practice transformation. All admitted students will be required to complete a series of practical internships to bridge their theoretical understanding of relevant matters with appreciation of practical opportunities to deploy new skills and ideas. Furthermore, students will also be required to learn a UN language and be certified proficient in it upon graduation.

Annual cost of room, board and tuition is USD \$15,000. AUW awards full scholarships that cover all such costs to admitted students who demonstrate financial need and a passion for promoting excellence and equity for adolescent girls' education.

AUW adheres to principles that foster meritocracy and exercises the preferential option in choosing candidates from marginalized backgrounds. It does not discriminate based on race, religion, nationality, or sexual orientation. Please check the official announcement for this program to find out more at <https://asian-university.org/2021/10/29/masters-in-education/>.

To apply, please go to <https://bit.ly/3EXhmFD>.

Please note that a \$10 application fee is applicable upon submission of an application. The deadline for application is **December 3rd, 2021**.

For additional information, please contact any of the following:

Tajkiya Ahmad (tajkiya.ahmad@asian-university.org)

Nishat Tasnim Akhi (nishat-akhi@asian-university.org)

Educating the Leaders of Tomorrow

www.asian-university.org



A snippet from the 'Habibi' music video.

I backed out of a film for 'Habibi': NUSRAAT FARIA

ZAHID AKBAR

Celebrated actress Nusraat Faria made her singing debut with "Pataka" in 2018. With her very first song, she had created quite a buzz among her fans. Her second song, "Ami Chai Thakte" was also a hit. Her third original track, "Habibi" was released on November 7. The "Premi O Premi" actress got candid about preparing for the song and more in a conversation with *The Daily Star*.

You have truly worked hard for the song, 'Habibi'. What was the process like?

I started preparing for the song 20 days in advance. I also had to study for my third-year law final exams at the time. I shot for "Habibi" on October 14,



PHOTO: HABIB DURJOY/COLLECTED FROM FACEBOOK

and had a paper due the next day. There was a lot of pressure on me, but I was determined to look beautiful and fit for the song. Although I was quite stressed out, those 20 days were memorable and wonderful. I even backed out of a film for "Habibi";

I gave my blood and sweat to it.

Your original songs 'Pataka' and 'Ami Chai Thakte' came out in 2018 and 2020 respectively. What were your expectations from them?

It has been three years since the release of my first song, "Pataka". If the audience had not appreciated that song, I would not have put out "Ami Chai Thakte". I think there is an interest among my fans, for more music from me. I collaborated with the Indian production house SVF Music for all my original songs till now, and I have had a great experience working with them.

You have proved your talents as an actress, a model and a singer. What is your mantra for success?

I believe the secret to my success is the love I have for my work. If you love what you do, everything else is likely to fall into place. Before me, actresses like Diti and Moushumi Apu have dabbled in singing. I have always aimed for something different and spectacular as a singer.

You got engaged over a year ago. Can we expect a wedding any time soon?

I am not thinking about my wedding at the moment, as I am quite busy. I need a few more months to plan everything out.

1 MINUTE PLEASE

DOLA

Aditi Rahman Dola prides herself on being a gym freak, an attribute she picked up along the way of her promising musical career. She sits with us with a round of 'One Minute Please', where she answers these questions within a minute!

What would you do if you were banned from gyms?

I would literally die! There's no way I can survive without going to the gym!

What was your first ever dream in life?

I really, really wanted to become a choreographer. If I wasn't a singer or a lawyer, I'd probably be that by now.

If you were to star in a film, and were given the choice of any co-star, who would it be?

Jason Momoa! (Blushes) I had to be from Bangladesh, no one, because I refer to all the actors as 'bhai'!

What is the toughest part about being an entertainer in 2021?

The negativity for sure. The online space is super-toxic and people love focusing on the negative.

One thing you dislike about the current generation of singers?

Their ears aren't ready yet, a lot of them can't even tell if they're off-tune.

Describe yourself in one word.

A fighter!



Aditi Rahman Dola.

PHOTO: COURTESY



Photographs on display at the exhibition.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

'A Better Tomorrow' turns the spotlight on climate change

MORMEE MAHTAB

The COP26 Climate Change photography exhibition, "A Better Tomorrow", was inaugurated on November 5 at Drik Gallery in Panthapath, showcasing a collection of 30 photographs, surrounding the various themes of climate change.

Curated from a competition organised by the British Council, the British High Commission, and the Embassy of Italy, in cooperation with Drik Picture Library Bangladesh, Picture People UK, and Fondazione UniVerde Italy, the photographs aim to spread awareness about local climate change among the youth of Bangladesh through the medium of visual arts.

The competition opened for submission in August under three main categories. It received 2,100 entries, from which 30 finalists were selected for the exhibition by international judges from Bangladesh, the UK and Italy. During the inauguration, Tom Miscioscia, the Director of the British Council, handed over the awards to the winners.

Photographs by Md Amdad Hossain, which won the grand prize, highlights the distressing state of homelessness brought on by frequent floods, river erosion and other natural calamities that force many uprooted families to migrate to the city in the hopes for a better future only to discover no refuge or respite. A similar struggle with the climate crisis is apparent in Ziaul Huque's photograph, which won under the Planet in Crisis category. It showcases the perils of unplanned urbanisation as a mother holds on to her daughter while they wait at the ground floor of a hospital in Chattagram, submerged in floodwaters.

In contrast to these categories, Md Rubayed Hossain's photograph, winner of the My Beautiful Planet category, revels on the beauty of nature yet to be tainted by the effects of climate change as it captures a woman moving through the algae-covered waters on a

dinghy in a foggy, winter morning. Moreover, Jannatul Mouwa's photograph, which received an honourable mention for Hope for the Planet category, invites a discussion on different environmental problems.

The aftermath of natural disasters, along with the irrecoverable damage of man-made waste and raw industrial materials on rivers and the aquatic life altogether create a viscous cycle of repetitive destruction, the impact of



which falls directly on the lives of the ordinary people, wreaking havoc into their everyday existence.

The exhibition plays a remarkable role in creating awareness about the different threats of climate change, and drives one to wonder about individual actions that contribute to such realities while instigating a desire to collectively mitigate the crises through conscious environmental choices that bring about sustainable solutions.

The winning photographs are being virtually displayed at the British Council Pavilion during the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, from October 31 to November 12. The exhibition at Drik Gallery will be open to the public till November 20, 2021, every day from 3 pm to 8 pm.

The author is a student of Political Science, and a freelance journalist. Email: mormeehta23@gmail.com.

THE QUEENS OF THE 60S

Considered the Golden Age of Bengali cinema, the 60s was a remarkable decade. Competing with Hindi and Urdu, there was a significance of Bengali cinema, with producing many commercially successful films.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The industry was booming with beautiful actresses, including the likes of Sumita Debi, Sujata, Shuchanda, and Shabnam.

There were other popular actresses, including the likes of Anwara, Sultana Zaman, Rowshan Ara, and Rosy, who were on the list of appreciation.

While reminiscing the actresses of the 60s, one cannot forget Dr Rawshan Ara. She was introduced as one of the first actresses of the decade.

The actress, who was also a doctor, made her first appearance on the silver screens with "Matir Pahar" in 1959. Some of her notable works are "Surjansan", "Je Nodi Morupotho", "Mala", and "Ujala". She passed away on June 24, 2010.

Another renowned actress, Sultana Zaman was introduced in 1959, with "Matir Pahar". Her appearance in the film "Chanda O Jowar" earned her a lot of appreciation as a romantic heroine. She has also worked in Khan Ataur Rahman's "Onek Diner Chena". The actress breathed her last on May 20, 2012.

Noted actress Sumita Devi is also known as the first lady of Dhallywood. She was one of the most popular actresses of her time. "Asia" was her debut film, while her first released film was "Akash Ar Mati". She tied the knot with legendary writer and filmmaker Zahir Raihan, in 1961. However, they parted ways in 1968. Sumita was honoured with the Nigar Award, one of the prestigious awards of the time.

Prominent actress Sujata presented some of the greatest hits of her time. She was



Shabnam.

popular for her glamour and acting prowess. The "Rupban" famed actress also worked in the films "Obujh Mon", "Astru Diye Lekha", "Etotoku Asha", "Chhutih Ghonta", "Ayna O Oboshishto", and "Alor Michhil" among many others.

Although the National Film and Ekushey Padak awardee's appearance on the big screen have become sporadic, the actress is often seen in small screens.

"Kagojer Noutka" famed actress Shuchanda is also one of the most prominent actresses of the 60s. She was much appreciated for her romantic roles in cinemas.

Her remarkable works are "Behula",



Sujata

"Jibon Theke Neyra", "Chawa Pawa", "Je Agune Puri", "Ostru Diye Lekha", "Anowara", and "Nayantara", and "Dhire Bohe Meghna" among many others.

She was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award in the National Film Awards.

Shabnam is another shining name of the 60s. Her unparalleled performance has won hearts over the decades. After her appearance in the film "Harano Din", she reached another height of popularity. She was one of the most prominent actresses in Pakistani film industry, with many films including "Chanda" in 1962. "Nachghor", "Julie", "Raja", "Shonyashi", "Jowar Bhata" are some of the notable films in her career.

The track "Tomare Legechhe Eto Je Bhalo", "Chaand Bujhi Ta Jane" from the film "Rajdhanir Bukey" is a timeless song.

Anowara is a household name when it comes to Dhallywood films. Her first media appearance was as a dancer. She made her debut in the film "Prit Na Jane Rit", as a dance artiste. Her first film as an actress was "Nachghor". In the film "Sangram", she was a supporting cast. She was highly appreciated for her performance in "Janajani", while "Nawab Shirajuddaula" was considered as one of her best works. In contemporary films, she is seen playing the character of mother.

Noted actress Rosy is known for her role in "Sangram". The actress passed away on March 9, in 2007. She was also known for her roles in "Etotoku Asha", "Neel Akasher Niche", "Alor Pipasha", "Chena O Chena", "Chorabali", "Protikar", and "Beder Meye" among many others.



Suchanda

PHOTOS: COLLECTED



Sumita Debi

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2021, KARTIK 25, 1428 BS

Opportunist bus operators must be held accountable

Authorities must ensure that ordinary citizens are not charged outsized bus fares

WE are troubled to find that our concerns of increased bus fares only adding to the sufferings of ordinary Bangladeshis, who are already struggling to cope with the aftershocks of the pandemic, have turned out to be all too true. According to a report in this daily, the government decision to raise bus fares, in light of a sudden announcement of fuel price hike that sparked countrywide strikes from transport owners and workers, have led to many operators taking advantage of the situation and charging as much as 50 percent higher fares. The government rule that the new bus fare schedule would not apply to CNG-run buses is also being flouted.

Throughout this entire period—since the announcement of the increase in fuel prices and during all the events that followed—it is the general public who have been the biggest victims of a situation that has been wholly out of their control. Transport strikes forced people to walk, pay more for expensive alternative transportation, or simply miss crucial appointments, and strikes from goods-carrying vehicles disrupted supply chains, making certain daily essentials more expensive as well. The government's solution to this state of affairs—a hike in bus fares, which includes a 28 percent hike in Dhaka and Chattogram—has been in accordance with the demands of transport associations, but has once again left the public in the lurch.

Millions of people are already struggling to recover from the blows dealt by the pandemic, and on top of that, the prices of essential food items, such as onions and edible oil, have gone up and are unlikely to come down soon. In such a situation, how will ordinary Bangladeshis deal with higher energy prices and bus fares, especially if they are being taken advantage of and charged higher rates than the ones fixed by the government?

A report in *The Daily Star* detailed how the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority's (BRTA) mobile courts conducted a drive on Monday against a total of 220 vehicles, and realised Tk 1.54 lakh in fines. While we appreciate that such steps are being taken, we feel that more must be done to ensure that bus operators are held accountable, since this is not the first time that their opportunist actions have added to commuters' woes. We also hope that, going forward, the authorities will enact policies that will help the people recover from the pandemic's negative impacts, as opposed to adding to their burdens when they are already struggling.

Cheap labour does not equal cheap lives

It's high time for the govt to ensure safety for construction workers

A photo published on the back page of this daily yesterday, showing two workers on an eight-storey under-construction building in Dhaka's Mohammadpur area, both standing on the very edge with no protective gear or harnesses, concerns us greatly, but does not surprise us at all. The deaths of construction workers in Bangladesh due to precarious working conditions is, unfortunately, not a new phenomenon. Even in September, a construction worker named Mohammad Sajib (24) fell to his death from an eight-storey building he was working at in Dhanmondi. The scaffolding he was working on collapsed, and the "safety belt" he was wearing was obviously not secure enough to prevent the tragedy.

But how long are we going to keep calling the deaths of construction workers "accidents"? Given the absence and/or inadequacy of the safety gear they are provided with by their employers, are incidents such as these not bound to happen? What is more horrifying is that people of all ages are allowed to work these dangerous jobs, including teenage boys and elderly men.

Construction of new buildings, many of them high-rises, abounds all over our cities. But will we continue to call this "development" when these projects are often tainted by preventable deaths of poor workers, who are only looking to earn their livelihoods?

The country's Labour Act does not cover this growing and thriving industry, which is still counted as part of the informal sector. In 2019 alone, the Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment Foundation found that 156 construction workers had died on the job. During the pandemic, these workers were among the sections most hard-hit due to not being prioritised for government or other financial assistance. Yet, they are having to risk their lives every day to carry our economy forward, while irresponsible construction firms and employers don't even do the bare minimum to protect them.

The government and labour ministry authorities must legally hold to account those who allow construction workers to work without effective safety gear, subjecting them to severe injuries and even death. Besides implementing existing rules—such as the 2014 National Building Code, which stipulates that everyone working with concrete must wear helmets and gloves—proper laws must be introduced in order to protect the health and safety of construction workers, and to also ensure that they are not paid in mere change for the dangerous work they do.

Why the lax attitude in bringing traffickers to justice?

Human trafficking continues to be a major problem in Bangladesh



A CLOSER LOOK

TASNEEM TAYEB

"Dance Club." The elite force also rescued 23 trafficking victims from three "safe houses" across Dhaka.

One of the arrested happens to be Kamrul Islam alias Jalil alias DJ Kamrul alias Dance Kamrul, a trafficker who lured unsuspecting girls with promises of lucrative jobs abroad, posing as a dance club owner. He had earlier been arrested in April 2019 for trafficking a woman to India, but he was released after only three months in jail.



Police can arrest as many human traffickers as they want, but without stringent application of the law, only arrests will not bear fruit.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Prior to this spate of arrests, in June, law enforcement agencies arrested 11 suspected human traffickers, who had been poaching girls and women using the social media platform TikTok. Later, Rab stated that Rafizul Islam Ridoy, also known as TikTok Ridoy, was the leader of the racket, and used to entrap girls with promises of making them TikTok models. However, the girls were trafficked to

Southern India as sex workers. The TikTok gang came under surveillance after a video of sexual assault on a woman in India went viral on social media. She was one of their victims.

In the past years, multiple trafficking rackets have been busted by the law enforcement agencies, yet the number of human trafficking victims kept spiralling. Citing NGO reports, this daily revealed that in the last 10 years, about 500,000 women and girls from Bangladesh—aged between 12 and 30 years—have been trafficked to India alone. Apart from India, trafficking hotspots include countries in the Middle East, North Africa, and East Asia, where Bangladeshi men, women and children are smuggled.

Given the upward trend in human trafficking, we need to take a closer look at the contexts of these incidents in order to be able to comprehensively address the situation, because these sporadic arrests are certainly not doing anything to curb this crime.

jobs abroad. This means these vulnerable people have no access to education, skills development, or any means of livelihood.

This brings us to the context of this evil called human trafficking: the root of these desperate journeys. In order to address this, the government needs to promote skills development training for these vulnerable, marginalised groups; the state needs to tap into this segment of the potential workforce, empower them with skills, and include them into the mainstream economy through access to decent workplace or entrepreneurial opportunities.

Secondly, for those who seek employment abroad, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment needs to carefully assess the credibility of the various agencies that supposedly offer foreign jobs opportunities to interested candidates. Often, criminals and *dalals* pose as recruiters and sell the job-seekers into slavery instead. Therefore, there is a need for strict vigilance in their sector. This includes close monitoring of the interactions, and transactions of any individual or agency claiming to be an overseas job recruiter.

Also, the government needs to create a support system for those who want to go abroad for jobs, by creating one-stop information centres, from where these interested individuals can connect with legitimate and credible recruiting agencies. There is also a need to educate people about the services that are being offered by the recruiting agencies, and the pitfalls of attempting to go abroad through illegal channels. If people are aware and are empowered with information and knowledge, they will be less likely to fall for the fake promises of the smugglers.

Now, if we talk about curative actions, the first concern that comes to the fore is the noticeably low conviction rate of human trafficking cases. According to media reports citing the Brac Migration Programme data, of all the human trafficking cases filed between 2012 and March 2021, only one percent of the cases ended in conviction.

Post the enactment of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act in 2012, as many as 5,738 cases involving human trafficking were filed, of which only 282 cases have been cleared till July this year, and only 36 cases resulted in conviction. Of the 24,500 traffickers named in these cases, only about 10,500 were arrested. What is even more unfortunate and alarming is that, except for 71 of the criminals who were

convicted, the rest are out on bail. There are two problems with this: first, once these criminals are out, they become more reckless and return to hunting for the next victim. Secondly, these bails send a strong message to the criminals—that even if they get nabbed, they can easily escape the long arms of the law.

It is understandable that there is often a lack of evidence in such cases, or victims end up making out-of-court settlements with the criminals, or witnesses fail to appear at the court for testimony. However, the practice of giving widespread bail without keeping the accused under any sort of surveillance, while their cases get lost in a legal quagmire, cannot be a solution to this problem.

Take the case of DJ Kamrul, for instance: had he not been out after three months in jail in April 2019, he would not have been able to victimise more girls. Who will take the responsibility of the women and girls who are having to endure unspeakable horrors day in and day out, thanks to the system that enables criminals like DJ Kamrul to go scot-free?

Of course, there would be many hurdles in the process of bringing these notorious criminals to justice—especially because many of them have support from influential quarters—but the authorities need to work around the problems and find ways to put these traffickers behind bars, and for long.

Unless we find long-term curative solutions, and implement them in tandem with effective preventive measures, the nefarious activities of these rackets will not only continue, but increase, and the criminals will get a free rein to make easy money, exploiting the desperation of vulnerable individuals.

The law enforcement agencies can make as many arrests as they want and bust as many gangs, but without stringent application of the law, these will not bear any fruits whatsoever.

It's high time the authorities took a hard look at the reasons why individuals fall prey to the evil intentions of the traffickers and eliminated those, assessed how the criminals get off so easily after being nabbed and closed the loopholes in the system, and took a holistic approach to address the country's human trafficking problem. Safety and security of each and every citizen is the responsibility of the state, and it must do everything in its power to ensure this, no matter what the challenges are, and who the criminals are.

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for *The Daily Star*. Her Twitter handle is @tasneem_tayeb

The next step in climate action is creating a fund for loss and damage



POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

SALEEMUL HUQ

enters its second and final week of negotiations, is the matter of loss and damage from human-induced climate change. This refers to the adverse impacts that can be attributed to human-induced climate change due to the rise in global temperature by more than one degree Celsius since the industrial revolution that happened over a century ago.

This means that efforts to avoid the impacts by reducing emissions through mitigation, and also to be better prepared to deal with those impacts through adaptation, have both been inadequate to avoid some real impacts that are now happening because of human-induced climate change. This was made abundantly clear in the sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which came out in August 2021, where the scientists of Working Group 1 said that, for the first time in three decades, they now had unequivocal evidence of the impacts of climate change that are credibly attributable to human activities. This is a breakthrough in the scientific field, which will have profound repercussions in both the COP as well as the reality on the ground.

Inside the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, there was a decision back at COP19, held in 2013 in Warsaw, Poland, where the countries agreed to set up the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts. The WIM had an executive committee and a work plan for five years, which came up for review at COP25 in 2019, in Madrid, Spain. Going into COP25, the vulnerable developing countries jointly demanded

two outcomes: first, a technical body to provide advice and technical guidance to countries; and second, to get funding for the victims of loss and damage. This topic was highly debated in Madrid and was one of the topics that drove COP25 into two extra days of negotiations, with a partial outcome only.

The demand for a technical body was agreed upon, and it was named the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD), but the demand for funding was

with a few items to be settled next week, but so far there is no progress on the issue of funding—at least inside the negotiations.

This year, the climate conference is being hosted by the UK in the city of Glasgow in Scotland. With its own government, parliament and budget, Scotland has also had a Climate Justice Fund of its own, separate from the UK, for a number of years. Just before COP26 started, First Minister of Scotland Nicola

Sturgeon's footsteps and also pledge to contribute towards the new fund. Indeed, if this happens, then it would be a major positive development, even if it is outside the official UNFCCC process that requires consensus-based decisions; it would be a coalition of the willing who may take the idea forward, and then it may be included in a decision at COP27 next year, where loss and damage will certainly be at the front and centre of



Climate-vulnerable poor and developing countries are demanding immediate funds from the big emitters to combat loss and damage caused by human-induced climate change.

FILE PHOTO: AFP

refused by the developed countries.

So now, going into COP26 in Glasgow, the vulnerable developing countries want to work out the details of the SNLD—including its mandate, governance, and activities—and also reiterate their demand for funding to help the victims of loss and damage.

At this point in time, when the first week of negotiations ends, there is some proposed text for setting up the SNLD,

Sturgeon announced a doubling of the country's Climate Justice Fund, and even more importantly, she allocated GBP 1 million for a new Loss and Damage Fund, and challenged other countries and foundations and anyone else to contribute to this new fund.

Many countries and foundations are now considering this challenge from the Scottish government, and in the remaining days of COP26, there is

discussions.

What is needed out of COP26 is to plant the seeds for exploring the options of funding for loss and damage, which can be nurtured over the next 12 months and readied for COP27, due to be held in Egypt in 2022.

Dr Saleemul Huq is the director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

Now is not the right time to raise fuel prices



M TAMIM

CURRENTLY, the world is going through a major energy crisis. In the last couple of months, natural gas, coal, crude oil, and electricity prices increased manifold, jeopardising the post-Covid economic recovery across the continents. While the developing countries are hit hard, even the developed countries are facing unprecedented situations as well.

Insufficient coal supply has created such a power generation shortage that two-thirds of Chinese provinces experienced rolling blackouts. Similar power curtailments took place in many Indian states. Electricity prices in Germany and Spain, where coal and gas still produce substantial amounts of electricity, soared to a record high. China forced all its energy-intensive industries (steel, aluminium, and cement) to cut down production, which in turn triggered supply chain worries all over the world. Natural gas prices in Europe and Asia increased 10 times from the same time last year. The coal price is almost five times higher now compared to November 2020. Crude oil price is heading towards the highest in several years. Many countries are helping the affected consumers.

This unusual situation was not caused by any single event. This was not due to the worldwide energy transition trends towards renewable and sustainable energy. Several factors created the current situation. In the early stage of Covid last year, the energy demand went down so drastically that oil, gas, and coal prices bottomed to historically low prices. At one point, the WTI (Western Texas Intermediate) crude oil price went to a negative value. As a result, new investment in fossil energy completely dried up, which was already on the decline since 2015. At the same time, many active fossil fuel production operations were closed down. With the introduction of vaccines in early 2021, the world economy started turning around. With the improved Covid situation, the world economic recovery got into full gear, posting the highest post-recession recovery rate in the last 80 years, driving the energy demand to exceed that of pre-Covid times. The traditional energy sector could not ramp up production at the same pace. As a result,

a major supply deficiency has hit the market. At the same time, an early, colder winter is also creating more demand for energy, which could not be supplied by renewable or any other source. Wind in Europe is producing much less power than average. New environmental regulations in China and India also hampered local production. Fire, maintenance, hurricanes, feed gas issues, shutdown of US shale oil production, and tight control by OPEC Plus countries have created less than expected energy supply scenarios on all fronts. The max out of LPG production will keep all the energy prices at an elevated level for an extended period.

Bangladesh is increasingly getting dependent on imported energy. Dwindling local gas supply that went down to 2,250 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) from a peak of 2,750 mmcf within one year has forced increased LNG imports. Out of a total of 7.2 million tonnes of yearly regasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG) capacity, Bangladesh imports four million tonnes RLNG through long-term contracts indexed with Brent oil price. The rest of the capacity was kept for spot purchase that has soared to more than USD 34 per mcf from only USD 3.5 per mcf a year back in the Asian spot market. The country brings in its entire crude and petroleum products via import, which may top 6.5 million tonnes a year. We also



The sudden increase in fuel prices has cut the ground from under people's feet.

ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

The fuel price increase to save just Tk 1,500 crore in the next six months is ill-timed, and will have a devastating effect on the economy, increasing the hardships of the majority. The government should reconsider this decision for the country's sake.

import roughly five million tonnes of coal. All these imports put the energy sector at high risk of supply and price variation.

The increasing dependence on imported oil and gas for power generation has amplified the production cost of electricity. System inefficiency, pilferage and overcapacity have added to that cost. As a result, the government paid Tk 11,300 crore in subsidies to the power sector alone last year. Due to a severe domestic gas supply shortage, the government did not have any other choice but to import LNG from the spot market at almost 10 times more value than last year's low. The current average gas selling price by Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) since 2019 is Tk 9.8 per cubic metre. While the average cost of gas was about Tk 12.2 per cubic metre before the current crisis, it has shot up to Tk 23 now, needing a subsidy of about Tk 14 per cubic metre. The government has been paying subsidies to the power sector for a long time, especially after increasing oil-based

generation capacity to 35 percent. The gas subsidy is a recent phenomenon that started with the import of LNG in 2018. How and why we arrived at this state requires a detailed analysis that is beyond the current scope of discussion.

Typically, oil prices lead to energy crises and generally have much more impact on the economy. The current oil price of USD 84 per barrel (bbl) is high, but not considered threatening yet. Rather, "it is the tail that is being wagged" by other fuels. The oil price has remained rather stable for a very long time—since the advent of shale oil in the US and the beginning of the energy transition towards renewable energy that took off in 2014-15. Bangladesh set its current oil price in 2014, when the oil price was hovering around USD 90/bbl. When the price crashed to as low as USD 27/bbl in February 2016 and remained low, the government reduced the diesel price by a token Tk 3 per litre—from Tk 68 to Tk 65. The average oil price between 2015 and 2020 has been about USD

56/bbl. Despite thousands of crores of taka given to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) in subsidies in the past, the sheltered corporation has never been upfront in its accountability and transparency, and it has been making money in the last seven years to the tune of over Tk 40,000 crore. The BPC declared that it had lost Tk 1,100 crore in the last five months.

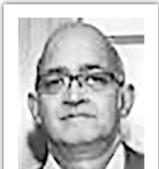
Bangladesh, like many other countries, is on a sharp path of post-Covid economic recovery. If the oil price remains at the current level, the maximum subsidy in the next six months would be Tk 1,500 crore. Bangladesh is heavily dependent on its internal economy. We saw its benefit during the high Covid period, when we did relatively well against the worldwide steep economic downturn. Even before the current diesel price increase, the food price-driven inflationary movement was creating economic hardship for the average citizens. Covid has bankrupted many small and medium businesses, created double-digit job losses, and wiped out the personal savings of average citizens. People were just getting back on their feet; the sudden increase in diesel price has cut the ground from under their feet. The internal economy will suffer a big blow as the disproportionate price increase in passenger and goods transport will increase all sorts of food prices in the kitchen market, which is already evident.

If the fuel cost of a Tk 100 ticket is even Tk 50, a 23 percent increase of fuel price will increase the overall ticket price to Tk 111.5, an 11.5 percent increase—provided all other costs (bank loan, salary, maintenance, etc) remain the same. The bus and launch owners have "successfully" negotiated 28 percent to 43 percent hikes. This shows the helplessness of the government and the suffering public.

This is a well-known routine. The fuel price increase to save just Tk 1,500 crore in the next six months is ill-timed, and will have a devastating effect on the economy, increasing the hardships of the majority. The government should reconsider this decision for the country's sake. The state-controlled oil price must be regulated by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), where consumer representation will be ensured—which is absent now. This will also ensure transparency and expose all hidden costs, profit, inefficiencies, etc.

Dr M Tamim is professor at the Department of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering in Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Can Modi's India keep its promise of net zero emissions?



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

THAT Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a penchant for springing off surprise when it comes to India's engagement with the world has once again been proven at the ongoing UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland.

Be it his invitation to all Saarc leaders to his swearing-in ceremony as prime minister for the first time in May 2014, or turning his Bharatiya Janata Party's stated position on its head on the issue of signing the land boundary agreement with Bangladesh in 2015, or making a previously unannounced stop-over in Lahore on his return from Kabul to meet

nine years. The three other parts of the Modi plan are promising that half of India's energy needs are met by renewable sources by 2030, building an installed capacity of 500 gigawatt of renewable energy, and reduction in the Indian GDP's carbon intensity by at least 45 percent. In committing to all three, Modi has gone beyond what India had promised at the climate conference in Paris in 2015.

The five-point action plan by Modi has ensured that India is no longer an outlier when it comes to enhancing international efforts to restrict the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The US, the European Union (EU), and many other countries, particularly small island countries which are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, have been pressing India to come out with a net zero commitment over the years. According to official estimates, India represents 17 percent of the global population and its

Glasgow stand out is the failure of developed countries to bring to the table fresh concrete near-term and long-term plans to address the issue.

The question now is: Post-COP26, how does India go about responding to the challenges thrown up by Modi's plan of action? A lot more light is expected to be shed when India follows up with a fresh Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDC) to fight climate change. This will set the direction of India's transition to a low-carbon economy, whose GHG is set to peak by the year 2040. The most important challenge is to ensure progressive decoupling of India's economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions without undermining development.

Environment experts are unanimous in holding that considerable success of India's march towards net zero emission and other short-term commitments to fight climate change hinges on a number of factors. Foremost among them are availability of green technologies and funds for future energy generation, an issue flagged by Modi in Glasgow, and power sector reforms including a big shift away from coal-fired plants and an unprecedented growth in renewable and nuclear power generation. Building green energy capacity remains a great challenge for India, which has to look forward to climate finance and technology transfer for the expansion in scale and scope of its mitigation and adaptation activities.

The electricity sector in India, so heavily dependent on coal, and the manufacturing sector are the two biggest contributors to the country's GHG emissions. According to one estimate in 2016, electricity generation is the top contributor to emissions. Any attempt to reform the power sector to connect all power plants and grids across the country to ensure uninterrupted supply and to stop the wastage of an estimated five percent of electricity due to inefficient distribution networks is politically sensitive, because it would do away with free or subsidised power. All this will call for huge investments, which most distribution companies are in no position to make.

Secondly, the issue of free or subsidised power is a highly contentious political issue linked to electoral calculations. Will the political parties agree on doing away with freebies to lure voters, or remain engaged in the competitive populism of offering doles? India has long been roiled by the debate between economic empowerment of the people through reforms with a human face (though it entails hardships) and the politics of doles that never addresses the real issue of poverty and development.

Environment experts are waiting for much more clarity on the Indian prime minister's promise made in Glasgow about achieving 50 percent of its energy requirement through renewable sources by 2030. It needs to be remembered that electricity is just one part of

the much larger energy basket, and all previous commitments made by India were formulated keeping in mind the electricity sector specifically, and not energy in general. The experts expect the issue to be clarified when India submits its next NDC to the UN climate secretariat.

Another key area of concern is India's forest cover which acts as a GHG absorber. Modi's speech in Glasgow did not talk about forest cover, and India did not sign on the COP16 declaration on the subject because the country is struggling to achieve the desired forest cover. India's forest cover has been increasing, but the pace of growth is so far not in keeping with what is required to reach the target. Official figures point out that India's 15 percent of total carbon dioxide

emission in 2016 was removed from the atmosphere by the land use change and forestry activities strategy. Between 2015 and 2019, India's forest and tree cover increased by 13,031 sq-km and mangrove cover increased by 235 sq-km.

India's journey towards net zero carbon economy also must take into account the major revenue implications for the central as well as the state governments of a near-total shift away from fossil fuel sectors, which fill a considerable section of their coffers. All in all, India's journey is set to present several challenges, including the issue of striking a balance between the energy needs of faster economic development and a concern for climate change.

Pallab Bhattacharya is a special correspondent for The Daily Star. He writes from New Delhi, India.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures as he addresses the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, on November 1, 2021.

PHOTO: REUTERS

the then Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in December 2015—Modi has broken new grounds in India's foreign policy initiatives and, in the process, has challenged himself. He did an encore in Glasgow where he laid out India's five-point action plan to tackle the threat of climate change.

The two most surprising and bold components of that plan are, of course, India pledging to achieve net zero target in emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) according to the capability to absorb the emission by the year 2070, and the commitment to cut one billion tonnes of projected emission in the next

historical cumulative emissions of GHGs are only four percent, while its current annual emissions are only about five percent. India has also succeeded in achieving a 24 percent reduction in emission intensity of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) between 2005 and 2014.

By announcing the initiatives in Glasgow, Modi has stepped up and bitten the bullet, strengthening India's image as a serious player on the issue of climate change. That was needed, because India is not only a major economy, but also the fourth largest GHG emitter. What made Modi's action plan in

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Ministry of Education
Bhola Govt. College
Bhola Sadar, Bhola

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Memo No. CEDP/BGCDP/2020-21/G-20/131

Date: 10.11.2021

e-Tender Notice 02/2021-2022

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.	626523	Procurement of Air conditioner & Power Generator for ICT Lab of Bhola Govt. College, Bhola.	01 December, 2021, 01.00pm	01 December, 2021, 02.00pm

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 banks' branches up to 30 November, 2021.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Md. Golam Zakaria
Principal
Bhola Govt. College, Bhola
Phone: 0491-61822

E-mail: bholagovtcollege@yahoo.com

GD-2031



England take on New Zealand in shadow of 2019 classic

AGENCIES



Two years since going toe-to-toe in a thrilling 50-overs World Cup final, England and New Zealand will again seek to deliver a knockout blow when they face each other in the semi-finals of the Twenty20 global showpiece in Abu Dhabi today. The clash

pits contemporary cricket's most dominant white-ball team England against arguably the most consistent cross-format side New Zealand, who have reached the final of three of the last four major global tournaments. The most dramatic of those finals was at Lord's in 2019 when Eoin Morgan's England were crowned 50-overs world champions via a now-scrapped boundary countback rule after the match ended in a tie. Kane Williamson's team

finally shed their bridesmaid's tag by winning the inaugural World Test Championship earlier this year and, like England, are now bidding to become reigning champions in two formats. "If England and New Zealand provide a fraction of the drama they did on a glorious afternoon at Lord's in July 2019, then the T20 World Cup might get the spark it desperately craves this week," former England captain Mike Atherton wrote in The Times.



Morgan plays down 'favourites' tag

REUTERS, Dubai

England captain Eoin Morgan has kept the lid on who will move up to partner opener Jos Buttler and dismissed suggestions his side would be "strong favourites" against New Zealand in the semi-final of the Twenty20 World Cup on Wednesday.

The 2010 champions will have to rejig their top order after opener Jason Roy's tournament was cut short by a calf injury during their final group match against South Africa.

"Within the group we've made a decision. Not willing to share that, unfortunately," Morgan said ahead of what will be a rematch of the 2019 ODI World Cup final.

While many expect Jonny Bairstow to partner Buttler, Morgan believes England are spoilt for choice within the squad.

"We are blessed with guys who can bat at the top of the order and actually who want to bat at the top of the order," said Morgan, who led England to their maiden 50-overs World Cup title two years ago.

"So I think we're in a very good position that we have a number of guys to choose from."

Armed with an explosive batting lineup, England could also be tempted to include bowling all-rounder David Willey to strengthen their attack against New Zealand.

Morgan said a final call would be taken after assessing the pitch at Abu Dhabi's Zayed Cricket Stadium.

"When we turn up and look at the wicket, depending on if it's a really good batting ... we might need the extra bit of bowling. If it's not, you might need the extra bit of batting."

Williamson wary of 'power packed' England

AFP, Abu Dhabi

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson on Tuesday lauded England's depth as a Twenty20 side and said they would be strong opponents in the World Cup semi-final despite injuries to key players.

Both teams have won four games each of their five in the Super 12 stage and fight for a final spot in a game that brings back memories of their dramatic 2019 50-over World Cup final won by England.

The Kiwis have since clinched the inaugural world Test championship this year and have performed consistently well across all formats.

Eoin Morgan's England have been the team to beat in the competition but injuries to fast bowler Tymal Mills and Jason Roy which could unsettle their combination.

"They're still very much a very strong side who have been playing some really good cricket."

Williamson said, "Look, they've got match winners throughout their team. And that's been a big, I suppose, movement of their white ball side. Power packed and bat deep as well."

Remind Williamson smiles off the memories of the fateful World Cup final in July 2019 when New Zealand took the match to the super over but lost on boundary count.

The skipper says the team has surely moved on and looks forward to the challenge ahead of them.

"It was an amazing game to be a part of. And certainly all the guys that when it does come up in conversation it's looked back on fondly and appreciate that experience," he said.



STATS

NEW ZEALAND

Road to semi-final: Lost to Pakistan by 5 wickets, beat India by 8 wickets, beat Scotland by 16 runs, beat Namibia by 52 runs, beat Afghanistan by 8 wickets.

Top scorer: Martin Guptill – 176 runs.

Top wicket-taker: Trent Boult – 11 wickets.

ENGLAND

Road to semi-final: beat West Indies by 6 wickets, beat Bangladesh by 8 wickets, beat Australia by 8 wickets, beat Sri Lanka by 26 runs and lost to South Africa by 10 runs.

Top scorer: Jos Buttler – 240 runs.

Top wicket-taker: Adil Rashid – 8 wickets.

T20s head-to-head: England wins: 13 (includes one win on super over after tie), New Zealand wins: 7, No result: 1.

Last T20 International meeting: In scenes reminiscent of the 50-over World Cup final, it took a super over to separate the two sides in their Twenty20 series with England coming out on top in Auckland four months earlier.

'Emperor' Babar ready to conquer world

AFP, Dubai

He was the fresh-faced 15-year-old who stared down Shoaib Akhtar in the nets, became the highest-ranked T20 batsman in the world before being elevated to national hero after masterminding a rare Pakistan victory over India.

In the breathless aftermath of that 10-wicket win over their fiercest rivals at the World Cup, the national cricket captain was even likened by one commentator to 'emperor Zahiruddin Babar' who conquered India in the 16th century and founded the Mughal Dynasty.

Fortunately for Pakistan, the unassuming 27-year-old Babar Azam has his feet firmly on the ground. He has guided his team to five wins in five games at the T20 showpiece and a semi-final clash against Australia in Dubai on Thursday.

Along the way, he has piled up a tournament-leading 264 runs. On Sunday, against Scotland, he hit his fourth half century of the competition. It all started with a brilliant unbeaten 68 against India. That

which Pakistan won 2-1. Babar has risen from modest beginnings but was a YouTube hit at 13.

Acting as a ballboy at Lahore's Gaddafi stadium in October, 2007, he confidently pounced a six from South Africa's JP Duminy which had been launched over long-on.

The slow motion replays and praise from the TV commentators who hailed his nonchalance gave Babar surprise airtime.

His talents were obvious but his father Azam Siddique was determined that the teenage Babar didn't get too far ahead of himself.

"It's a blessing for me that my father supported me so much," he said. "To be honest, he still scolds me if I don't play well or get out by playing a rash shot."

From the under-15 to under-19 levels, his strokeplay caught the eye.

Former Pakistan opener Mudassar Nazar was particularly impressed when he was head of the national cricket academy in 1999.

"I was in the Under-15 camp and one day they (the national team) invited us for practice and Mudassar was very kind to select me to face Shoaib's bowling," recalled Babar.

Shoaib Akhtar, the erstwhile 'Rawalpindi Express', famously bowled the fastest recorded delivery -- 161.3 km/h -- at the 2003 World Cup. "Shoaib looked surprised but still encouraged me," said Babar.

"He told me 'kid you have to defend the ball. I will bowl it up'. After two or three deliveries, I drove him."

"He got slightly offended and asked for a new ball and bowled a bouncer. I ducked and watching from the side, Mudassar called me back (from out of the nets)."

Former Australian all-rounder Tom Moody, who has coached in the Pakistan T20 Super League, believes Babar will become a bigger star than even India skipper Virat Kohli.



Forgoing captaincy won't slow down Kohli

AFP, Dubai

Virat Kohli on Monday said it had been an "honour" to captain India's Twenty20 side as he ended an otherwise disappointing World Cup campaign on a winning note.

Kohli, who will continue to captain India in Test and ODI cricket, took over the T20 captaincy from MS Dhoni in 2017 and said it is time to manage the workload.

"It's been an honour, but things have to be kept in the right perspective. This was the right time for me to manage my workload," Kohli said.

"It's been six-seven years of intense cricket every time we take the field and it takes a lot out of you."

But the 33-year-old said his intensity on the field will remain the same. "That's never going to change. If I can't do that I will not play anymore," said Kohli.

"Even when I wasn't captain before I was always keen to see where the game is going. I'm not going to stand around and do nothing."

He has led the team to great heights in Test and white-ball cricket but critics have always pointed at his failure to land a World Cup triumph in either T20 or ODI cricket.

Earlier this year they were also beaten by New Zealand in the first ever World

Test Championship final. The superstar batsman said his deputy Rohit Sharma had been overseeing matters going into the game.

"I was given the opportunity and I tried to do my best. But it's also time to create some space and move forward. I've been immensely proud of how the team has played."

Head coach Ravi Shastri also bid adieu to the team after working alongside Kohli for five years. Shastri, a former India all-rounder, said he believes the current side are "one of the greatest" of all time. "Sometimes in life, it's not about all you accomplish, it's about what you overcome," Shastri told Star Sports.

TODAY'S MATCH
England Vs New Zealand
8pm (BST)

Rohit replaces Kohli as India's T20 captain

AFP, NEW DELHI

Rohit Sharma has been named the new captain of India's T20 side, replacing Virat Kohli, the cricket board said Tuesday after the side were dumped out of the T20 World Cup.

The Board of Cricket Control of India Tweeted that the 34-year-old opening batsman was "named the T20I Captain for India" as it announced the squad for an upcoming tour by New Zealand.

Kohli, who took over T20I captaincy in 2017, had announced his decision to step down in September, citing his "immense workload". He remains the skipper of the one-day and Test teams.

The announcement follows news that former batting legend Rahul Dravid was replacing Ravi Shastri as coach for all formats following the World Cup, where India failed to qualify for the semi-finals.

Kohli was also not named in the T20 squad for the New Zealand tour, to begin on November 17, in order to give the batsman time to rest.





More empty gestures?

BISHWAJIT ROY



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has taken some initiatives in the aftermath of the national team's abysmal performance in the T20 World Cup, where the Tigers' nightmare started with a defeat against Scotland in the first round before ending with defeats in all five Super 12 matches.

The first visible move was the appointment of former national captain and current board director Khaled Mahmud as team director for the upcoming Pakistan series at home while the latest was the formation of a two-member committee, consisting of BCB directors Enayet Husain Siraj and Jalal Yunus, entrusted with assessing why Bangladesh failed to deliver in the ongoing mega-event.

Apart from that, there has only been speculation that the board is planning a major overhaul to the coaching set-up. These sporadic initiatives have raised serious questions about whether the board sincere enough to unearth the real facts behind the debacle and if the board is awaiting another

success from national team to use to sweep all the criticism under the carpet as usual?

It would have been an ideal had the board called an emergency meeting to discuss the issue and formed an independent committee to unearth the reasons for the debacle, similar to the one formed after fiasco at the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

Only this kind of truly soul-searching effort can help the board fix the problems now like it did then. Bangladesh benefited immensely from the in-depth report from an independent committee after the 2003 disaster.

Instead, the appointment of Mahmud and talk of overhauling the coaching staff appears to be another routine move from the board in search of a quick fix.

It was not only the team's performance in the T20 World Cup, but the overall state of the country's cricket that came under heavy criticism following the forgettable performance. Many opine there are numerous facets that should be addressed in order to break the vicious cycle of debacles with glories few and far between.

From cricket pundits to cricket fans, major issues that came to the fore, other than the players' failure in the field, were: interference

from BCB higher-ups, a lack of foresight and planning for T20 cricket, a poor state of domestic cricket, a failure to think about good team management, an incompetent media contingent who reportedly failed to handle issues in crunch moments.

While the two members of the fact-finding committee are true gentlemen and have been serving the country's cricket in an administrative capacity for a long time, the problem is whether they will be able to ask the players, staff and board officials the hard questions given their current positions and produce a comprehensive report for the betterment of the country's cricket?

When the duo, as board members, have to bear responsibility regarding these issues, how can one expect the two-member committee to unearth the truth behind the failure?

When former Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza raised many questions and urged authorities not to scapegoat players for failures but to correct the process without damaging the players, perhaps it deserved special attention.

Unfortunately, the current BCB under the leadership of Nazmul Hassan is seemingly hesitant of paying attention to criticism, instead walking along the same old 'eyewash' path.

Tamim smashes maiden first-class ton

SPORTS REPORTER



The 2020 ICC Under-19 World Cup-winning members are making a name for themselves in the ongoing 23rd National Cricket League (NCL) as Tanzid Hasan Tamim, playing for Rajshahi Division, smashed his maiden first-class ton against Dhaka Metropolis on the third day of the fourth round of the league at the BKSP 4 yesterday.

Before Tamim, another member of the champion Under-19 squad, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, had smashed his second successive first-class ton for Chattogram Division on the second day of their play against Barishal Division.

Going back to yesterday's action, Tamim struck a 171-ball 145 to help Rajshahi end the day on 241 for four, with a 75-run lead. The left-handed opener starred in a second-wicket 162-run stand with Junaid Siddique, who remained unbeaten on 59.

Unlike Siddique, who had built his 194-ball knock patiently, Tamim played aggressively throughout his innings, smashing as many as 15 boundaries and two maximums during his almost four-hour-long stay at the crease.

However, Tamim's knock came to an end when he fell prey to national team leg-spinner Aminul Islam in the 60th over.

While Tamim's ton helped Rajshahi to a commanding position at the end of third day, his U-19 compatriot Joy was

adjudged player-of-the-match after his side Chattogram romped to an innings and 73-run win against Barishal at the BKSP 3 yesterday.

Thanks to Joy's 121-run knock on the second day, Chattogram resumed on 364 for four and with a 128-run lead on the board yesterday. Playing 27.1 overs on the day, Chattogram scored 443 all out, amassing a 207-run lead.

But Barishal, who were bundled out for 236 in their first innings, suffered yet another batting collapse and were restricted to 134 in just 35 overs in their second innings with Chattogram pacer Mehedi Hasan and their national Test team off-spinner Nayeem Hasan sharing seven wickets between them.

Meanwhile, at the Sylhet Academy Ground, Rangpur Division ended the day on 53 for the loss of a solitary wicket, needing 195 more runs to win on the final day against Khulna Division. Khulna, who started the day on 21 for one, scored 212 before being bundled out as overnight batsman Amit Majumder and national Test team all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz struck fifties.

In the other game in Sylhet, Dhaka Division, having resumed on 22 for one, batted the entire day and were at 234 for eight in 103 overs against Sylhet Division before stumps yesterday. Overnight batsman Abdul Mazid (59 off 145) and Raqibul Hasan (54 off 160) struck fifties as Dhaka lead by 92 runs.



Wedding or Pak tour? Depends on fiancée, says Maxwell

REUTERS, MELBOURNE

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell is uncertain whether he will make Australia's tour of Pakistan in March-April as he and his fiancée plan to have their long-delayed wedding at that time.

Maxwell and pharmacist Vini Raman were engaged in March 2020 but have had to reschedule their wedding several times due to COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions.

The 33-year-old would be among the first picked for Australia's limited overs matches against Pakistan between March 29-April 5, which follow a three-test series in the South Asian nation. "I think it's great that we've got a tour to go back there. I think I saw it was 1998 the last time we went there," he told reporters on Tuesday.

"Whether I'm going there or not might probably hinge on my fiancée because my wedding is supposed to be on during that time. So I'm probably not quite the right person to ask that question."

Asked whether his fiancée might consider moving the wedding again, Maxwell said: "Not a chance. We've already moved it a couple of times so I think this is it."

Australia meet Pakistan in the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup in Dubai on Thursday as they bid for their first title in the global tournament.

While he had been in top form during the Indian Premier League, Maxwell has not had the kind of destructive innings with the bat in the World Cup that Australian fans have craved. He was, however, starved for chance in the last two matches, finishing unbeaten without scoring in both the wins against Bangladesh and West Indies.

"I'm not sure if you've noticed but I've got two not outs back-to-back which is pretty rare in my career," he said with a laugh. "It means the top order is going really well if I'm not spending that much time out there. I've been in a really good head-space so hopefully (I'm) not required again or hopefully required for another zero not out and just stay at the other end."

BPL at six venues outside Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER



The Professional Football League Committee (PFLC) yesterday decided to hold the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League in six venues outside Dhaka due to the ongoing renovation work at the country's premier venue Bangabandhu National Stadium.

It was also decided at the meeting to start the season with the Independence Cup on November 27 at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium with the participation of 12 BPL teams and four services teams. After the completion of the Independence

Cup, the Federation Cup will get underway at the same venue.

Of the initial 20 venues across the country, the committee trimmed the 20-venue list to 10 before finalising it to Cumilla, Munshiganj, Gopalganj, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Tangail/Mymensingh. The Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi and the newly-built Bashundhara Complex ground were kept on standby for use in emergency cases.

"Considering circumstances and reality, clubs have agreed to play BPL matches outside Dhaka and the venues have been selected with the nod of all clubs. Each venue will have two home

teams, thus 12 professional clubs will play home-and-away matches at six venues across the country," BFF senior vice-president and PFLC chairman Abdus Salam Murshedy said after the meeting at the BFF House yesterday.

Club representatives informed they had come to know the venues to take a final decision on selecting a home venue after discussing the matter with their respective clubs' higher-ups.

However, the representative of Mohammedan SC was not allowed to attend the PFLC meeting citing the name of the representative was not approved yet.



SRI LANKA'S ROUSING FIGHTBACK

A Sri Lanka forward tries to wriggle past two Maldives defenders during their high-scoring opening match of the Mahinda Rajapaksa Trophy in Colombo yesterday. The hosts stormed back to hold Maldives to a 4-4 draw, thanks to a four-goal haul in the second half from Ahmed Waseem Razeek. In the second match of the tournament today, Bangladesh will take on Seychelles at 4:30pm Bangladesh time, a match which was deferred from Monday due to heavy rain in the Lankan capital.

PHOTO: FFOSL

'We are the pioneers'



AFP, Barcelona

When Claudia Riumallo Pineda wakes up, it does not take her long to know where she is.

From her bedroom window she can see the Johan Cruyff Stadium inside Barcelona's Ciutat Esportiva training ground, where she dreams of one day playing for the women's first team.

She is on the right track. The 18-year-old is one of nine trailblazers who this season became the first female players to enrol at La Masia, Barca's famed football academy and proving ground for the likes of Lionel Messi, Andres Iniesta and Xavi Hernandez.

Since its opening in 1979 as an old house next to Camp Nou, La Masia has never had female residents.

But the women's team has been knocking on the door for a long time, with Barcelona Femeni winning the Champions League, Liga Femenina and Copa de la Reina last season.

"This year they have given us La Masia, which is a gift," says Claudia, who for years had to travel an hour by car from her town of Girona just to be able to train with girls.

After playing for local rivals Espanyol, she now represents Barca B and in the afternoons studies chemistry at university. Shaken by financial crisis and the unexpected departure of Messi, most of the good news around the club these days comes from the women's team.

As well as last season's treble, Barca's captain Alexia Putellas was chosen as UEFA's best player of the year and is now also nominated, along with four teammates, for the Women's Ballon d'Or. "It's a huge responsibility because we are the pioneers but it's also nice to know that you are one of the first women to go to La Masia," says Laura Coronado, an 18-year-old goalkeeper.

Coronado's photo, like that of the 105 others at La Masia spread across the club's five professional sports, now hangs in the reception of the more modern complex that took over from the original in 2011.

Gavi, the latest gem of the men's team, arrived when he was eleven years old and continues to live there. The 19-year-old Ansu Fati is also a former resident. "The good thing we have at this club is the mirror is very clear," explains Markel Zubizarreta, sporting director of Barcelona Femeni.



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REGULATING THREE-WHEELERS

Banned on nat'l, regional highways

Says draft guideline; these vehicles must have route permits, drivers require licence

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

No three-wheelers or easy-bikes would be allowed on the national and regional highways. Such vehicles must have route permit, registration and fitness clearance for operating on the dedicated routes. And their drivers have to obtain licences.

There would be limitations on the number of vehicles which can run in a particular area. Thus, the number of small vehicles would be controlled which would help reduce road crashes and traffic congestion.

These are several provisions of a draft guideline prepared by the government to regulate the unregulated and risky three-wheelers and similar types of vehicles in the country.

Different types of three-wheelers like Nasimon and Karimon and battery-run easy-bike will come under the regulations.



The move comes at a time when the country witnessed a sharp rise in road accidents and deaths this year and experts blamed operations of a huge number of slow-moving vehicles on the highways for this.

However, the government has failed to enforce the ban on three-wheelers like Nasimon and Karimon on the 22 major national highways imposed in August 2015.

After preparing the draft guideline titled "Three-wheelers and Similar Motor Vehicles' Proper Management and Control Guideline-2021", the Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD) uploaded the draft in its website on Monday seeking public opinions within a month.

"We have sent the copies of the draft to the ministries concerned. After getting opinions from individuals and the

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The footbridge near Kakoli High School and College in the capital's Dhanmondi is littered with medical waste, including disposable gloves, from nearby hospitals. Pedestrians are exposed to health hazards due to such indiscriminate waste disposal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

PM in Paris

Gets warm welcome at Élysée Palace

UNB, Paris

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was given a rousing reception at the Élysée Palace on the first day of her visit to France.



On her arrival at the presidential palace, the presidential guard gave her salute and then French President Emmanuel Macron received her.

Both the leaders posed for a photo session. In the second photo session, Macron and Hasina climbed the staircase and then posed for another photo session.

After brief statements, the two leaders went for a lunch meeting and tete-a-tete.

The prime minister was accompanied by Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen, Principal Secretary Dr Ahmad Kaikaus and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and Bangladesh Ambassador Khandaker Mohammad Talha.

Later, she will be given state guard of honour by the Republican Guard.

In the evening, the prime minister is scheduled to go to the Matignon, the official residence of the French prime minister, to have a bilateral meeting.

PHOTO ON PAGE 1

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ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

UN Mission may withdraw

NOVEMBER 10, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON

A nine-day national conference titled "Consultation on the American Response to events in East Pakistan" began today in Washington DC. The conference was organised primarily by the representatives of church groups (including the National Council of Churches, the Friends and the Unitarian Universalist Association) which attracted about 100 public figures from many parts of the US and Canada.

The lead speech was given by Senator Kennedy. In his brief address Kennedy criticised the US policy and decried the terror which had resulted in the daily deaths of 4300 children in the refugee camps in India.

Mujahid Hussain, first secretary of the Embassy of Pakistan, was scheduled to speak at the conference but after arriving in the hall he abruptly walked out after noticing the name of SAMS Kibria of the Bangladesh Mission on the program. Pakistan Embassy later issued a condemnation of the conference.

Enayet Karim addressed the conference on behalf of Bangladesh, following an address by Maharajkrishna Rasgotra, minister for political affairs, Embassy of India.

The conference was presided over by Dr Homer Jack, secretary general of the World Conference of Religion for peace.

UN MISSION IN DHAKA FACING TROUBLE

The head of the emergency United Nations Mission in Bangladesh would leave Dhaka soon for New York with a report that the

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India tourist visa resumes from Nov 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India is set to issue tourist visas from November 15 after a pause of 19 months for the global coronavirus pandemic, much to the cheer of Bangladeshis who account for the largest share of foreign tourist arrivals in the neighbouring country.

Initially, a single-entry visa will be issued for travel by air, Indian High Commissioner Vikram Kumar Doraiswami told reporters at Brahmanbaria's Akhaura Land Port yesterday while travelling to his country.

The visa's duration would be 120 days but the stay cannot be more than 30 days.

Visas for travel by road and rail will be issued gradually, he said.

The Indian visa application centres in Bangladesh resumed operations in October last year and were issuing visas

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Trash for books

Indonesian library creates literacy from litter

REUTERS, Purbalingga



A librarian in Indonesia's Java island is lending books to children in exchange for trash they collect in a novel way to clean up the environment and get the kids to read more.

Each weekday Raden Roro Hendarti rides her three wheeler with books stacked up at the back for children in Muntang village to exchange for plastic cups, bags and other waste that she carries back.

She told Reuters she is helping inculcate reading in the kids as well make them aware of the environment. As soon as she shows up, little children, many accompanied by their mothers, surround her "Trash Library" and clamour for the books.

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ASTRAZENECA VACCINE Bangladesh to get 5m doses from Poland, KSA

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has said Bangladesh will soon receive around 5 million AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine doses from Poland and Saudi Arabia as gift.

Bangladesh will get around 1.5 million doses of the vaccine from Saudi Arabia.

"Our ambassador in Riyadh has informed

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 10

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-00 12-45 3-45 5-22 7-00
JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-25 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Eng v NZ promises another epic

MAZHAR UDDIN from Dubai

Not a dark horse anymore, nether a team that only win hearts; New Zealand have emerged as giant killers in world cricket over the last three years or so.

The Kiwis reached the final of the 2019 ODI World Cup beating India in the semifinal, won the ICC Test Championship beating India in the final, and now they have reached the semifinal of T20 World Cup handing India a return ticket to the Super 12 stage with a lot of authority.

But when New Zealand face England in the first semifinal in Abu Dhabi today, the crazy final of the 2019 50-over World Cup will probably remain

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A transport worker, in blue t-shirt, returning extra fare, collected from passengers beyond government-permitted price, after a mobile court caught him red-handed during a drive in the capital's Ramna area. Mobile courts halted at least 67 buses for charging extra fare in Dhaka and Chattogram cities yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

FINAL WEEK OF COP26

Pay up

Poor nations press wealthy as climate damage mounts

AGENCIES

Poor nations are pressuring their wealthy counterparts at the UN climate summit to pay up for the mounting damage being caused by global warming, pointing to increasing powerful storms, cyclones, droughts and floods afflicting their people.

The campaign being waged at the UN climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland seeks hundreds of billions of dollars per year more for climate-vulnerable economies even as they struggle to access some \$100 billion pledged by world powers years ago.

Those previously promised funds, meant to help developing nations transition off fossil fuels and adapt to the future realities of a warmer world, were offered in recognition that poorer countries are least responsible for climate change.

"We've been too slow on mitigation and adaption, and so now we have this big and growing problem of loss and damage," said Harjeet Singh, an advisor with Climate Action Network, who is involved in the negotiations on behalf of developing countries.

He said negotiations so far were focused on including language about "loss and damage" in the official text of the summit agreement, a request that he said was facing resistance from the United States, the European Union and other developed countries worried by the potential costs and legal implications.

Asked whether the European Union should consider a loss and damage fund separate from funding for mitigation and adaptation, Juergen Zattler, head of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development,

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