

FORCED DISPLACEMENT
UN says over 2 million people
became refugees in the first
half of 2021
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"The UP election, as you have seen, is an election of dominance between groups. A little bit of bickering always takes place during this election."
HOME MINISTER ASADUZZAMAN KHAN



"Killings are going on in the name of union parishad polls. Farical elections are being held in the country."
JATIYA PARTY CHAIRMAN GM QUADER



"Time is running out; this occasion must not be wasted, lest we have to face God's judgement for our failure..."
POPE FRANCIS ON COP26

UNION PARISHAD ELECTIONS 2021

Seven lives lost, scores hurt

Clashes, ballot stuffing, occupying centres ruin festivity in several dists on second-phase polling day



STAR REPORT

Deadly violence broke out in seven districts during yesterday's polls to 835 union parishad as supporters of ruling Awami League nominees and those of the party "rebels" clashed, leaving at least seven people dead and 60 others injured.

The festive mood of the second phase of the polls to the lowest tier of local

government was largely marred by ballot stuffing and occupation of the polling centres in 13 districts.

During the first phase of the UP polls in June and September, six people were killed.

There had been concerns over violence in the second phase as clashes took place in many places in the run-up to the election, leaving at least 18 dead. The election was

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Long queues of voters at the Hazrat Kalu Shah Girls' High School polling centre in Bhatiari area of Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila around 10:00am yesterday. Voting of the second phase of the union parishad polls was held across the country yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

FUEL PRICE HIKE

Govt decided this, not BPC

Energy secretary says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The energy ministry had no option but to push for a raise in the prices of diesel and kerosene that has now set off a chain reaction in the economy, said Energy Secretary Md Anisur Rahman yesterday.

"If the decision was not taken, the next shipment of fuel imports could have stopped, which would have then brought a major crisis," he told a webinar styled "Fuel Price Hike: Upcoming Impact", organised by the Forum for Energy Reporters Bangladesh (FERB).

The fuel price started to spiral in the global market in May, and the energy division was observing the situation for six months.

The Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation was losing about Tk 20 crore per day: it was selling each litre of diesel at Tk 13.01 lower than the purchase price and furnace oil Tk 6.21 less.

In the five-and-a-half months to October, the BPC had incurred a loss of Tk 1,147.6 crore. In October alone, the

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IT'S NO RAPE

They danced, drank, swam

Says a Dhaka court in Raintree case verdict sparking protests, acquits all 5 accused, recommends police take no rape case after 72hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Apan Jewellers owner's son Shafat Ahmed and all four other accused in the Banani Raintree hotel rape case were acquitted yesterday, more than four and a half years after the incident allegedly took place.

Judge Mosammat Kamrunnahr of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 of Dhaka passed the acquittal order in the sensational case in a packed courtroom around 2:45pm.

Referring to the two girls who brought the allegation of rape, she said they were partner to sexual intercourse willfully because they willingly



went to a party, danced, drank alcohol and they swam in the pool.

The judge noted that the case was lodged 38 days after the incident happened, and so no DNA evidence could be found. "Semen cannot be traced after 72 hours..."

She recommended that police should not accept any rape case if the complainant goes to the police station 72 hours after an incident.

The judge also reprimanded the investigation officer of the Banani case for "wasting valuable hours" during which "many important cases" could have been dealt with.

Soon after the media reported the acquittal of

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CLIMATE SUMMIT 2021

Surprise US-China deal spurs hopes

Global figures, climate experts welcome pact

AGENCIES

A surprise deal between China and the United States, the world's two biggest greenhouse gas emitters, has boosted the COP26 UN climate summit as it enters the last day of hard bargaining to try to stop global warming becoming catastrophic.

US climate envoy John Kerry and his Chinese counterpart Xie Zhenhua unveiled an outline late on Wednesday in which China, the biggest producer and user of coal, promised to accelerate its transition from the dirtiest fossil fuel.

The deal by two global powers, which have been divided by a raft of diplomatic disputes

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Wade, Stoinis crush Pakistan's dreams



Stoinis, right, and Wade celebrate their victory.

MAZHAR UDDIN from Dubai

Six, six, six and it was all over for Pakistan. Matthew Wade smashed Shaheen Afridi for 22 runs off the 19th over of the innings to gun down Babar Azam's high-flying side and take Australia into the final of the ICC T20 World Cup at the Dubai Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The Aussies proved yet again that they can never be written off on the biggest of stages, snatching a win from the jaws of defeat, but the tide turned in the third ball of the 19th over -- with Australia needing 20 off 10 deliveries -- when Asif Ali dropped Wade at deep mid-wicket.

The left-hander did not wait for the final over to get the

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PARTY RESOLUTION

China's Xi cements his status

AGENCIES

The Chinese Communist Party yesterday passed a "historical resolution", cementing Xi Jinping's status in political history.

Xi, the uncontested leader of the world's most populous nation, has been heading a pivotal plenary of the ruling party's top figures since Monday in the Chinese capital.

Some 400 members of the powerful Central Committee passed China's resolution on "Major Achievements and Historical Experience of the Party's Centennial Struggle" -- only the third ever such resolution in its 100-year history.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, French President Emmanuel Macron, middle, and US Vice-President Kamala Harris at the opening ceremony of the "Paris Peace Forum" at The Grande Halle de la Villette in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

REMOTE LEARNING

Declare it as global public good

PM calls upon Unesco, hands over first Bangabandhu Int'l Prize for "Creative Economy"

BSS, PARIS

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the Unesco to declare remote learning and online education as a global public good as online education evolved as a "new normal" during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"...during the pandemic, lack of resources and technologies has jeopardised our decades of gains in school enrolment, literacy rate, and learning of youths and adults. I call upon this august body [Unesco] to declare remote learning and online education as a global public good," she said.

Hasina made the call while addressing the 41st General Conference of Unesco here.

She also called upon the UN body to work as a matter of priority with governments, private sectors and other stakeholders to rally partnership and resources to make this happen.

Mentioning that the pandemic has undermined the hard-earned achievements, she said it has revealed a major fault line in the education system.

According to Unesco, close to half of the world's students are affected by partial or full closure of schools.

"Online education evolved as a 'new normal' during the pandemic. Yet, it also exposed a new divide," the PM said.

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