

CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN

UN warns one million children at risk of dying from acute malnutrition

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Your Right to Know

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"Usually, people join local government polls with enthusiasm, but the government has also destroyed it. Many people have died in polls violence."

BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR
ON UNION PARISHAD ELECTION



"Globally, extreme poverty is on the rise -- as is extreme wealth. We face a dramatic rise in inequality..."

US VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS



"Promises ring hollow when the fossil fuels industry still receives trillions in subsidies."

UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES TELLS COP26 CLIMATE SUMMIT

Tax dodger let off the hook

Ctg customs did not penalise Chinese firm; C&F agents' licences suspended, but no action against customs officials responsible for it

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

Chattogram Customs did not penalise China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) even though it evaded tax while importing construction materials for a government project.

Instead of realising between 200 and 400 percent of the tax dodged as fines, the customs authorities let the leading Chinese firm off the hook by allowing it to pay just the tax it dodged.

During an audit in January, Chattogram Customs found out that CRBC had imported 22,450 tonnes of pretensioned spun high strength concrete (PHC) piles in six consignments in 2019 but paid only Tk 4.72 crore in taxes when it was supposed to pay Tk 21.64 crore.

The consignments were released from Chattogram Port with incorrect harmonised system (HS) code, which is used for boring machines, instead of the correct code for

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the PHC piles.

According to the law, Chattogram customs should have fined CRBC between Tk 33.84 crore and Tk 67.68 crore.

The customs authorities in May issued show-cause notices to CRBC and two of the importer's C&F agents. They suspended the licences of the C&F agents but were yet to take any action against the customs officials involved.

CRBC in a statement to the commissioner of the Chattogram Customs House on June 29 claimed that they had no idea of the forgery until the customs served them a demand notice on June 23.

They said they had paid their C&F agent SF International Tk 28.52 crore for paying the taxes. They held the agent responsible.

Wang Jinwu, business manager of CRBC Dhaka office, told The Daily Star, "We have solved the tax-related issue following the

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Members of Green Bangla Garments Workers' Federation demonstrate in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding that the government ratify the ILO Convention 190 and put an end to violence and harassment at work.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CLIMATE SUMMIT 2021

COP26 nears end with 1.5C goal at risk

Intense haggling continues into overtime for deal; Johnson asks for more money on the table

AFP, Glasgow

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday appealed to richer countries to place more "cash on the table" to secure a climate breakthrough as the COP26 meeting in Glasgow slipped into overtime.

Poorer countries have balked at demands to do more to curb their own emissions, without promised financial support to transition away from fossil fuels and to adapt to the accelerating impacts of climate change.

The deadlock pushed COP26 past its scheduled end at 1800 GMT, with intense haggling expected through late yesterday or even into the weekend.

But Johnson said that the Glasgow summit in itself would not be able to stop global warming.

"We won't clinch it all at COP, but we can start," he told reporters near London.

"We do need to see the cash on the table to help the developing world to make the necessary changes," he said. "That's what needs to happen in the next few hours."

Delegates from nearly 200 nations are tasked with keeping alive the 2015 Paris goal of limiting temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as warming-driven disasters hit home around the world.

New wording to a draft COP26 agreement yesterday called for countries to accelerate "the phase-out of unabated coal power and of inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels".

That was softer than a first version of the text, but observers said the inclusion of the fuels driving the climate crisis was an important step.

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COMMENTARY

Honourable judge, we respectfully but vehemently beg to differ

MAHFUZ ANAM

Judge Mosammat Kamrunnihar, of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7, found all the five accused "not guilty" in the rape case of two university students filed with Banani Police Station on May 6, 2017. The honourable judge found the case weak, lacking in evidence and bereft of crucial witnesses. How accurate and legally correct these views are will, no doubt, be further examined by higher courts on appeal.

Our problems -- and I mean serious ones -- lie elsewhere. They are in some of the observations she made while pronouncing her verdict. She reportedly advised the police not to take any rape case if it is lodged 72 hours after the incident. Why? "Because semen cannot be traced after 72 hours, because DNA test is vital to prove a case of rape."

May I most respectfully ask whether or not a crime of rape lasts only for 72 hours? After that limit does the crime just vanish into thin air? There is a victim right in front of our eyes -- suffering both physical and emotional wounds. But there is no perpetrator? If police are advised not to take

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IT MAY ENCOURAGE OFFENDERS

The Dhaka court that acquitted all five accused in the Raintree hotel rape case also recommended police should not accept any rape case if the complainant comes 72 hours after an incident. The recommendation drew flak, specially from women rights activists. The Daily Star yesterday reached out to three legal experts for their comments on this matter.



Z I KHAN PANNA

Lawyer Z I Khan Panna, a human rights activist and the immediate past chairperson of rights body Ain O Salish Kendra, said there is no time limit for filing any rape case as per the criminal laws.

Whenever a victim goes to the police station with an allegation of rape, the law enforcers are bound to record it as a case, he said.

"The recommendation of Judge Mosammat

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SHAHDEEN MALIK

Noted jurist Shahdeen Malik said the observation by the judge was just a comment made by an individual judge and that it had no legal value.

"There is no scope to consider an observation made by the judge of a trial court as an explanation of law," he told The Daily Star yesterday when his attention was drawn to the recommendation by judge Kamrunnihar.

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KHURSHID ALAM KHAN

Khurshid Alam Khan, a Supreme Court lawyer and Editor of Dhaka Law Reports (DLR), said the recommendation made by the judge would encourage the rapists.

"The observation made by the judge with regard to filing of the rape case in 72 hours is totally irrelevant to our socioeconomic condition. Her observation can encourage the rapists," he said.

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ROHINGYA RETURN

The world must act seriously

Says Hasina in Paris

BSS, Paris

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the world leaders to ensure repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland Myanmar soon to escape security risks in the region and beyond.

"The world must act seriously to make sure that these people can go back to Myanmar soon. Otherwise, the security risks from the crisis will not just remain confined within our borders. We already see signs of that," she said.

The PM made the call while addressing the Fourth Edition of the Paris Peace Forum-2021 titled "Minding the

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Finding no other options, people, entering the capital via Tongi, start walking with their luggage as the Tongi Bridge on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway was damaged, *inset*, to such an extent that it was deemed too dangerous for vehicles. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

UP ELECTIONS 2021

2 out of 5 rebels win

100 set to win unopposed in next phase

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Two out of five independent candidates, mostly Awami League "rebels", won chairman posts in the second phase of the union parishad polls on Thursday.

Compared to the first phase, candidates running with the Awami League tickets performed poorly in the second phase. They won 58 percent of the chairman posts against first phase's 76 percent, according to Election Commission's (EC) data revealed last night.

On Thursday, polls were held at 835 unions but the results of one union were withheld, EC Joint Secretary SM Asaduzzaman told The Daily Star.

AL chairman candidates won in 486 unions and 81 of them were elected unopposed. At least 330 independents won and party insiders said almost all of them were AL rebels. Another 203 members and 76 members for reserved seats for women were also elected unopposed.

Ten Jatiya Party and four Islami Andolan Bangladesh candidates, one candidate each from Jatiya Party (Manju), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Jatiya Party and Khelafat Majlish won.

In the first phase, 267 Awami League candidates won, 71 unopposed. At least 85 independents were victorious.

VIOLENCE CONTINUES

In Dhamrai, a man died after he was caught in the middle of a clash between supporters of two member aspirants in Shuyapur UP Thursday night.

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