


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





**PROUD  
CONSTRUCTION  
PARTNER OF  
PADMA BRIDGE**

BIDEN'S SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY

# Bangladesh's exclusion bewildering

Say analysts, experts

PORIMOL PALMA

The exclusion of Bangladesh from US President Joe Biden's Summit for Democracy has triggered surprise, questions and caution among foreign relations analysts, especially as there is no clear explanation given though Washington considers Dhaka its strategic ally in the Asia-Pacific.

They say there could be flaws in the democratic practices in Bangladesh, and the US should have engaged Bangladesh. Excluding Bangladesh from the list of invitees is also intriguing as there are a number of countries, whose democratic process is highly questionable, but were invited.

Analysts say Biden's initiative to improve democracy, curb corruption and promote human rights, if sustained, will have far-reaching implications in global governance, trade and diplomatic relations.

Therefore, it is crucial for Bangladesh to keep a close watch on the initiative and plan measures to deal with the implications in the coming days, they said.

According to the State Department, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Maldives were invited to the virtual summit on December 9 and 10, which aims at defending against authoritarianism, addressing and fighting corruption and promoting respect for human rights.

A US Embassy spokesperson in Dhaka said they have followed the UN's approach in determining the countries to be invited, but spoke nothing about why Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Fire tore through the Mazar slum adjacent to Sena Kalyan Bhaban in Tongi in the early hours of yesterday. About 500 shanties were gutted. As dawn broke, many of the slum dwellers were seen trying to salvage whatever they could from the rubble. Primary investigation suggests that the fire originated from a mosquito-repelling coil. The photo was taken yesterday noon.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

## SOHEL MURDER Rab arrests two more suspects

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Rab yesterday arrested two more men accused in the case filed over the murder of Councillor Syed Mohammad Sohel.

Ashikur Rahman Rocky was arrested in Lalmonirhat and Alam Mia in Cumilla, said Major Mohammad Sakib Hossain of Rab-11.

Law enforcers have so far arrested four of the accused named in the case.

Sumon and Masum were arrested earlier.

Masked gunmen shot Sohel and his aide Haripada Das in Pathuriapara area on Monday.

Sohel, 48, was also the panel mayor of Cumilla City Corporation and a local Awami League leader.

His younger brother Syed Mohammad Rumon later filed the case against 11 named and 12 unnamed individuals.

## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### No justice expected from Security Council: Indira

NOVEMBER 28, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### INDIRA GANDHI'S SPEECH

Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi today said any reference of the present tension on the Indian subcontinent to the UN Security Council would neither help ease the situation nor would it materially affect the situation.

Addressing a massive public meeting in Jaipur, the Indian premier said, "Pakistan had committed aggressions against us four times in the past. It is clear that we did not attack Pakistan but what did the Security Council do to help us against the aggressions?"



refugees in India  
**RUSSIA WOULD REJECT ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE COUNCIL**  
Soviet Union indicated today it would reject attempts to involve the UN Security Council and the five great powers in the Bangladesh crisis.

Pravda said in its international review section, "reactionary forces in Pakistan and abroad are doing everything to use the situation for aggravating Indo-Pak relations and for giving it the character of an international crisis."

Meanwhile, US president Nixon sent messages to India, Pakistan and Soviet Union asking them to do everything in their power to prevent escalation of border incidents in the subcontinent.

The US president decided to intervene personally in the crisis.

Italy joined Belgium in sponsoring

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Tremor again jolts parts of Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

A 4.2-magnitude earthquake shook different parts of the country including Chattogram on Saturday afternoon.

The tremor was felt around 3:47 pm, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

The epicentre of the earthquake was in the India-Myanmar border region, about 308 kms South-East off Dhaka, the BMD said.

However, there was no report of any damage, injury and casualty by the tremor so far.

In the early hours of Friday, a strong 6.1 magnitude earthquake jolted Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna and some other parts of the country. Its epicenter was at a depth of 32.8 kilometers (20.4 miles) near Hakha, Chin State, Myanmar, said the US Geological Survey (USGS).

## Seoul trials tiny robots in nursery schools



AFP, Seoul

Seoul has started trialling pint-sized robots as teaching aids in kindergartens -- a pilot project the city government said would help prepare the next generation for a hi-tech future.

The "Alpha Mini" is just 24.5 centimetres tall and can dance, lead sing-a-longs, recite stories and even teach kung-fu moves as children mimic its push-ups and one-legged balances.

"The robots help with the kids' creativity,"

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

## Two more die, 155 get Covid

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday reported 155 Covid-19 cases while the coronavirus claimed overnight two lives.

"The country reported 1.15 percent Covid-19 positive cases as 13,462 samples were tested in the past 24 hours," Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said in a statement.

In the past 24 hours, the combined figure of coronavirus in Dhaka city and upazilas of the district is 122 while two Covid-19 deaths were reported during the period.

The official tally showed that the virus killed 27,975 people and infected 1,575,579 so far, the statement added.

The recovery count rose to 1,540,018 after another 188 patients were discharged from the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

## Pakistan take command

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Pakistan took charge and pushed Bangladesh onto the back foot after the second day of the first Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

Bangladesh were bundled out for 330 in the first innings as pacer Hasan Ali picked up his sixth five-wicket haul. The visitors then replied strongly through a 145-run opening stand from Abid Ali and debutant Abdullah Shafique.

Abid was seven runs shy of his fourth Test hundred while Shafique was

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Pakistan pacer Hasan Ali took four wickets inside the opening session as Bangladesh were bundled out for 330 on the second day of the first Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. In reply, Pakistan reached 145 without loss.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## AFGHAN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS India, Russia, China alarmed

Hundreds of girls take entrance exams for Turkish-run schools in Kabul

REUTERS, New Delhi

The foreign ministers of India, Russia and China on Friday expressed concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and the spread of drug trafficking in the country.

Afghanistan has been plunged into crisis by the abrupt end of billions of dollars in foreign assistance, following the collapse of the Western-backed government and return to power of the Taliban in August.

"Expressing concern over deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the Ministers called for immediate and unhindered humanitarian assistance to be provided to Afghanistan," said a joint statement released following a virtual meeting between India's S Jaishankar, Russia's Sergey Lavrov and China's Wang Yi.

The statement called on the Taliban to respect the results of United Nations resolutions on Afghanistan and the central role of the UN in the country.

The three countries also pledged to do more to combat drug smuggling in the region.

"The spread of illicit drug trafficking in opiates and methamphetamine from Afghanistan and beyond... poses a serious threat to regional security and stability and provides funding for terrorist organizations," the statement added.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Afghan girls took entrance

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



**PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 28**

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
5-10	12-45	3-45	5-19	7-00	
JAMAT	5-45	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION