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# The regrets after 50 years

*Prof Rehman Sobhan says despite many achievements, the country sees widening disparities, weakening of our institutions*

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in economy and social development in the last 50 years but failed to institutionalise democracy, improve governance and protect the environment, said eminent scholars.



They also observed that widening inequality and a lack of quality education still remain matters of concern that need to be addressed urgently for the country to flourish in the coming decades.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan said, "Bangladesh became a success case from the basket case in 50 years."

"Regrettably, we also see widening social and economic disparities and weakening of our institutions."

He made the remarks while attending the last session of a four-day webinar that ended Friday night.

CPD and the South Asia Program of Cornell University jointly organised the webinar marking the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence.

There now exists a politically patronised bureaucracy and exclusionary political space, he said.

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Two boatmen navigate their vessel through clumps of garbage on the Chaktai Khal in Chattogram. Waste carelessly dumped in the city's canals find their way to the Karnaphuli river, causing environmental damage. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

# NBR awards nine highest VAT payers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue yesterday awarded nine firms for paying the highest amounts in value-added tax in the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal handed over the crests to the representatives of the firms at an event at IDEB Bhaban in the capital.

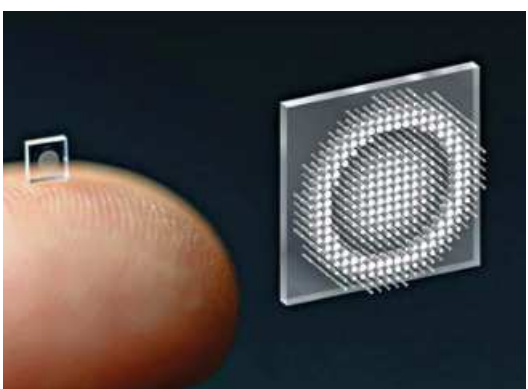
Manufacturers Aristopharma Ltd, Square Toiletries Ltd, and Maya Biri Factory; traders SM Motors, AMCO Bajaj International and MABS Union Motors Ltd; and service providers Edotco Bangladesh Company Ltd, Grey Advertising Bangladesh Ltd, and Robert Bosch Bangladesh Ltd were recognised as the highest VAT paying firms in the country.

Finance Minister Kamal said taxes allow the government to spend for the welfare of people.

NBR Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem said the revenue

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# Engineers develop tiny camera the size of a grain of salt



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Researchers have created an ultracompact camera the size of a grain of salt capable of producing pictures on par with lenses hundreds of thousands of times larger than it.

Engineers from Princeton University and the University of Washington say that the camera can produce full-colour images that could be used in collaboration with medical robots to diagnose and treat diseases.

Traditional cameras use curved glass or plastic to bend light rays, this new camera uses

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

# Pakistan general sends SOS to UN

DECEMBER 11, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### BANGLADESH BANS COMMUNAL PARTIES

The Bangladesh government today banned four communal parties -- the Muslim League, the Jamaet-i-Islami, the Nizami Islam and the People's Democratic Party. The announcement was made by acting president Syed Nazrul Islam in Jashore.

"Religion will not be allowed to be used in politics in Independent Bangladesh," he said. He also said that a tribunal would shortly be formed to try the war criminals. He appealed to all not to take the law into their own hands and "kill traitors and collaborators", but the people should hand over the traitors to the representatives of the Bangladesh government.

### ON THE WAR FRONT

Pakistan said today that India had landed a brigade of paratroops north of Dhaka. A Pakistani military spokesman described the situation in East Pakistan as "grim". It was, however, asserted that major East Pakistani towns, including Jessore and Comilla, were



still in Pakistani hands but that landing of Indian troops by helicopter and parachute deep within East Pakistan had bypassed main points of Pakistani resistance.

The Pakistan army in the eastern section was cut off from resupply from the West and for the last four days had been without the protection of an air force. Dhaka was under continuous air attack by Mitro Bahini.

The New York Times reported that Rao Farman Ali, military adviser to the puppet civil government in East Pakistan, proposed a ceasefire to the United Nations under which non-Bangalees would be evacuated and political autonomy would be conceded by Pakistan.

Meanwhile, on the western front,

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# 5 held for spreading anti-state propaganda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rab arrested five people in the capital's Swamibagh area on charges of spreading anti-state propaganda.

The arrestees are: Abdullah Al Mahmud, 29, Wayez Kuruni, 27, Touhidul Islam 26, Gazi Sakawat, 29, and Habibur Rahman, 30, said a Rab media release yesterday.

Several laptops, portable hard disks, and leaflets containing provocative and anti-state statements were seized during the arrests, it said.

During primary interrogation, all five confessed to their involvement in spreading anti-state conspiracies and sabotage.

The arrestees said they formed secret groups on social media platforms where they negatively portrayed the activities of

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# Onion prices shoot up

AKANDA MUHAMMAD JAHID

The retail price of onion has gone up to Tk 80 per kg in city kitchen markets, putting the low and middle income people, already reeling from Covid-19 fallout, under more financial pressure.

Retailers were seen selling the local variety of onion for Tk 75-80 a kg, up by Tk 30 from three days ago while the imported Indian onion was being sold for Tk 50-60 a kg, an increase by about Tk 15.

Md Amin Mia, a retailer at Shukrabad kitchen market, said he bought 120kg of local onion from Mohammadpur Krishi Market at Tk 75 a kg and was selling it for Tk 80 a kg.

Wholesalers in Karwan Bazar and several other markets were selling the local variety of the essential cooking ingredient for Tk 70-75 a kg and the imported Indian onion for Tk 45-55 a kg.

Visiting Town Hall kitchen market in Mohammadpur yesterday, this correspondent found customers expressing worries about soaring onion prices.

Manirul Islam, a private company employee, was telling an onion trader, "How can we survive if the prices of essentials are so high?"

The 35-year-old told this correspondent he could not afford the high prices of essentials.

"For the last few months, my salary amount was exhausted by the 20th of each month. I need to borrow money to run my family for the rest 10 days. I can't even buy medicine for my ailing parents."

Another private employee, Md Shafiqul Islam, said his family has already reduced their food intake to cope with the additional expenses.

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# Faridpur Gangs Aide to Rubel, Barkat held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Faridpur police arrested the president of Faridpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry from the capital early yesterday.

The arrestee is Md Siddiqur Rahman, 40, son of late Alauddin Sheikh of Guhaluxmipur area in Faridpur Sadar upazila.

There are four cases against Siddiqur with Kotwali Police Station -- three are related to extortion and criminal activities while another is a murder case.

Faridpur Additional Superintendent of Police Jamal Pasha confirmed the matter at a press conference at noon.

According to the press

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## PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 11

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00  
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Workers cleaning the steps and walkway of the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the capital's Rayerbazar yesterday, ahead of the Martyred Intellectuals Day to be observed on December 14. On the day, people from all walks of life visit the monument to mourn and pay respect to the intellectuals killed by the Pakistan occupation army at the fag end of the 1971 Liberation War.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**Star HEALTHLINE**

How to clean your ears  
**WITHOUT DAMAGING THEM**

STAR HEALTH DESK

Do your ears really need cleaning? If they do, how to do it without causing damage?

ENT specialists around the world agree that ears generally don't need cleaning. Presence of cerumen or earwax is normal, according to experts. It actually helps protect and lubricate the ears. In its absence ears would be itchy and dry.

Along with having antibacterial properties, earwax is like a filter for harmful things like dirt and dust,

**Hyginex**  
Instant hand sanitizer

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