

With Elizabeth II, 20th century is also laid to rest

The laying to rest of Queen Elizabeth II, whose 70-year reign witnessed the aftermath of World War II, the Cold War and dizzying technological change, marks a further step in a leave-taking with the 20th century.

The British monarch exercises little real power but Elizabeth was a titanic figure on the 20th-century stage, whose first prime minister was wartime leader Winston Churchill, met the first man in space Yuri Gagarin, and made landmark visits to newly independent nations as the British Empire fell apart.

Her death at the age of 96 was even more symbolic coming just over a week after the passing of former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, 91, another among increasingly few surviving icons of the last century, who let the USSR dissolve and eastern Europe escape Moscow's grip.

Their disappearances come as the world is still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, shaken by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has revived fears of nuclear war, and waking up to how climate change could wreck the hopes of this and future generations.

LOSING THE THREADS

Queen Elizabeth II was buried yesterday alongside her father, King George VI, and other family members at Windsor Castle outside London, after a state funeral attended by world leaders in the heart of the British capital. Gradually, the world is losing the threads that still tied it to the 20th century, and just a few iconic figures remain alive.

The great cultural giants are also taking their leave -- Jean-Luc Godard, one of the most influential filmmakers of the 20th century and the father of the French New Wave, died last week by assisted suicide.

Nelson Mandela, who campaigned to end apartheid in South Africa and then became its first majority-rule president, died in 2013. Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro, who led his country for half a century and was an icon of the Cold War, died in 2016.

'END OF WORLD WAR II'

Some of the greatest bridges now retained with the 20th century are cultural. Rolling Stones lead singer Mick Jagger, 79, still performs with his group while Beatles icon Paul McCartney, 80, continues with an illustrious solo career that included a rapturously received set at the Glastonbury Festival this year.

The queen herself was a symbol of a shift to modernity, with her coronation in 1953 the first major event televised around the world, and her first televised Christmas message in 1957 blazing a trail for other world leaders.

But above all, the death of the queen represents a major rupture with the memory of World War II, a conflict that her father King George VI endured along with his daughters and other Londoners in bomb-scarred London.

SOURCE: AFP



Pak court quashes terror charges against Imran

REUTERS, Islamabad

A Pakistan high court yesterday quashed terrorism charges against former prime minister Imran Khan, his defence lawyers said.

The court said Khan's alleged offence didn't attract terrorism charges, Faisal Chaudhry, one of his lawyers told Reuters.

The charges are related to a speech by Khan in which he allegedly threatened police and judicial officers after one of his close aides was denied bail in a sedition case.

US would defend Taiwan if China attacks

Warns Biden triggering Beijing's fury, says he may run for re-election

AGENCIES

President Joe Biden said US forces would defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion, his most explicit statement on the issue, drawing an angry response from China that said it sent the wrong signal to those seeking an independent Taiwan.

Asked in a CBS 60 Minutes interview broadcast on Sunday whether US forces would defend the democratically governed island claimed by China, he replied: "Yes, if in fact, there was an unprecedented attack."

Asked to clarify if he meant that unlike in Ukraine, US forces - American men and women - would defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion, Biden replied: "Yes."

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman

Mao Ning told a regular briefing in Beijing that Biden's comments sent a "seriously wrong signal" to separatists forces for Taiwan independence.

Taiwan's foreign ministry expressed its thanks to Biden for his reaffirming of the "US government's rock-solid security commitment to Taiwan".

The interview with Biden was conducted last week. The president was in Britain for queen's funeral yesterday.

In the interview, Biden went back on repeated assertions by the White House that he is sure to run in 2024, reports AFP.

Biden, who turns 80 in November, told interviewer Scott Pelley that re-election is his "intention." "But is it a firm decision that I run again? That remains to be seen," he said. "It's much too early," Biden said.

Notable quotes of Queen Elizabeth

REUTERS, London

Britain's Queen Elizabeth, who died on September 8 aged 96 and whose funeral was taken place yesterday, never gave an interview during her 70-year reign, but her regular public speeches sometimes gave an insight into her private thoughts. Here is a selection of extracts from speeches, addresses and contributions to documentaries given by the queen:

FIRST TV CHRISTMAS BROADCAST IN 1957

"When peace comes, remember it will be for us, the children of today, to make the world of tomorrow a better and happier place. My sister is by my side and we are both going to say goodnight to you. Come on, Margaret. Goodnight, children. Goodnight, and good luck to you all."

WARTIME BROADCAST, OCT 13, 1940

"We cheered the king and the queen on the balcony and then walked miles through the streets. I remember lines of unknown people linking arms and walking down Whitehall, all of us just swept along on a tide of happiness and relief. I think it was one of the most memorable nights of my life."

SPEECH ON CORONATION DAY, JUNE 2, 1953

"Like all the best families, we have our share of eccentricities, of impetuous and wayward youngsters and of disagreements."

DEATH OF PRINCESS DIANA, SEPT 1997

"He is someone who doesn't take easily to compliments but he has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years, and I, and his whole family, and this and many other countries, owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim, or we shall ever know."

TRIBUTE TO HER HUSBAND PRINCE PHILIP

"For I know that, despite the huge constitutional difference between a hereditary monarchy and an elected government, in reality the gulf is not so wide ... And each, in its different way, exists only with the support and consent of the people. That consent, or the lack of it, is expressed for you, prime minister, through the ballot box. It is a tough, even brutal, system but at least the message is a clear one for all to read.

For us, a royal family, however, the message is often harder to read, obscured as it can be by deference, rhetoric or the conflicting currents of public opinion. But read it we must."

CHRISTMAS BROADCAST 2021

"As we mark this anniversary, it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service."

Britain bids adieu

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was scheduled to be relocated to the King George VI Memorial Chapel. Here the Queen's coffin will join those of her parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

The coffin of Prince Philip will also be relocated so that the Queen can be laid to rest alongside her beloved husband of 73 years.

At the funeral, Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, told those present that the grief felt by so many across Britain and the wider world reflected the late monarch's "abundant life and loving service".

"Her late majesty famously declared on a 21st birthday broadcast that her whole life would be dedicated to serving the nation and Commonwealth," he said. "Rarely has such a promise been so well kept. Few leaders receive the outpouring of love that we have seen."

After the funeral, her flag-draped casket was pulled by sailors through London's streets on a gun carriage in one of the largest military processions seen in Britain, involving thousands of members of the armed forces dressed in ceremonial finery.

They walked in step to funeral music from marching bands, while in the background the city's famous Big Ben tolled each minute. King Charles and other senior royals followed on foot.

The casket was taken from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch and transferred to a hearse to travel to Windsor, where more big crowds waited patiently.

Among those who came from around Britain and beyond, people climbed lampposts and stood on barriers and ladders to catch a glimpse of the royal procession.

Millions more watched on television at home on a public holiday declared for the occasion, the first time the funeral of a British monarch

has been televised.

John MacKinnon, a 49-year-old insurance broker from London, added: "The ceremony was perfect in every way."

"Very spectacular, as it should be for a great queen."

Auto engineer Jamie Page, a 41-year-old former soldier, stood on Whitehall to observe the funeral procession, wearing his military medals from service in the Iraq war.

"She means everything, she was like a gift from God," he said.

Elizabeth died on Sept. 8 at Balmoral Castle, her summer home in the Scottish highlands.

Her health had been in decline, and for months the monarch who had carried out hundreds of official engagements well into her 90s had withdrawn from public life.

However, in line with her sense of duty, she was photographed just two days before she died, looking frail but smiling and holding a walking stick as she appointed Liz Truss as her 15th and final prime minister.

Despite being reputedly 5ft 3ins (1.6m) tall, she dominated rooms with her presence and became a towering global figure, praised in death from Paris and Washington to Moscow and Beijing. National mourning was observed in Brazil, Jordan and Cuba, countries with which she had little direct link.

The queen's death has prompted deep reflection about the Britain she reigned over, the legacy of its past, its present state and what the future might hold.

All of Truss's living predecessors were there at the funeral plus her counterparts and representatives from the 14 Commonwealth countries outside Britain where Charles is also head of state.

Whether they remain constitutional monarchies or become republics is likely to be the defining feature of Charles's reign.

Houses of 5 BNP

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entrance. They beat up my family members, vandalised furniture, snatched a gold chain from my wife's neck and took away about Tk 90,000," Jubo Dal leader Masum told The Daily Star.

He said he went into hiding about a week ago after being beaten up by some AL men. The ruling party men attacked his house after learning that he returned home on Sunday, alleged Masum, president of ward-6 Jubo Dal.

Yousuf Howlader, joint general secretary of Chonpara Union BNP, said some 50 youths, armed with

machetes and sticks, attacked his house and snatched two mobile phones.

The attackers are involved in AL politics, he told this newspaper.

The other victims of the attacks are Chonpara Union BNP President Harun Miaji, ward-7 BNP Vice-President Md Kamal and ward-4 BNP member Hajrat Ali.

Contacted, Bazlur denied the allegation of his supporters' involvement in the attacks.

"I do not know anything about the attacks. I was not in Chonpara last night [Sunday night]," he told this newspaper.

'Errant' pilot

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Sylhet-Dhaka route on September 8.

The flight -- BG121 -- was scheduled to depart from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 10:15pm.

The other cockpit crew members of the flight reported at the operations control room on time.

"Captain Safa had also come to the Operations Control room. But left without operating the flight," says the show-cause notice.

Due to intervention by the Biman high authorities, the flight was later operated by another captain.

However, it was already delayed by almost two hours as it departed for Muscat at 12:08am instead of the scheduled time because the authorities had to find another operating captain, mentioned the show-cause notice.

"Although you are appointed to the Final Crew Position [FCP] to operate the flight, you left the operations control room as per your own decision without operating the flight, causing a delay of an hour and 53 minutes," it said.

The Biman authorities said the incident earned a bad name for the national flag carrier as passengers expressed dissatisfaction over the delay.

They said Biman also incurred financial losses due to this. However, the what losses were incurred and how could not yet be known.

Other flight operating officials said the authorities concerned were not satisfied with Capt Safa's explanation for not operating the flight, the notice said.

However, what his explanation was could not yet be known.

Asked, Zahid Hossain, CEO and managing director of Biman, who was in London yesterday, told The Daily Star that the captain failed to perform his duty and they will take necessary actions.

He said the captain is yet to respond to the show cause.

"We will not spare anyone who will not follow the Biman rules and regulations to carry out his duty."

Meanwhile, responding to a WhatsApp message, Captain Abu Safa said, "The process is going on. I'm just waiting to see what happens next."

Man killed

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Rahman said, "At dawn, Rab informed the police station that a drug peddler was killed in a shootout with the force. The body of the deceased was lying in Hnila union's Damdamia area beside the Naf river."

The OC said the body bore marks of bullet wounds.

Jalal Ahmed, a member of Hnila Union Parishad, said Momin's father, a day labourer, lived in a mud house with his family.

EC finalises massive

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parties like the BNP and Jatiya Party (Ershad).

The ruling Awami League and some of its alliance partners are in favour of the use of the machines.

At least 19 out of the 39 registered political parties that have joined or skipped talks with the EC, held between July 17 and July 31, directly opposed the use of EVMs in the polls.

THE PROJECT

The commission in 2018 bought EVMs, without some accessories, at the base price of \$2,487.

It needed to pay Tk 86 per US dollar back then but the latest DPP mentioned Tk 110 as every dollar price because of taka devaluation, said an official involved with the project.

Last time, there was no value-added tax on the final price of the EVMs but this time there might be taxes, increasing the cost further, he told this correspondent.

Besides, the DPP of the five-year project proposed setting up 10 warehouses in 10 regions. Each warehouse will have fool-proof

security, firefighting equipment and temperature control mechanism for the proper preservation of the around 45,000 EVMs.

The three-storey warehouses would be on 40 kathas of land with more than 60,000 square feet of space.

"We will need money to buy or acquire land and to have modern facilities to store the machines," EVM Project Director Syed Raquibul Hasan said in the first week of this month.

Besides, campaigns would be required to make people aware of EVM use and dispel misconceptions.

The DPP also proposed recruiting around 1,300 manpower and training. It recommended buying 534 pick-up vans and four jeeps for transporting the EVMs.

"EC needs to spend around Tk 55 crore each year to transport EVMs for elections, and that is why we proposed to have pick-up vans," said an official.

The commission is going to spend around \$50 crore when the country is going through the dollar crisis. And the government has ordered many

measures like postponing needless foreign trips of public servants to cut spending.

With the Jatiya Sangsad polls likely in late December 2023 or early January 2024, the EVM issue came to the fore especially after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at an AL meeting on May 7 said voting machines would be used in all 300 constituencies in the election.

Introduced in 2010, EVMs were used in various local government elections. The then Election Commission led by ATM Shamsul Huda had used them in the city corporation polls but not in any parliamentary election.

In 2012, the EC headed by Kazi Rakiuddin Ahmad also kept the EVMs out of the national polls.

The Nurul Huda-led commission overhauled the EVM system and used it for polling in six constituencies in the 2018 December election.

Twelve political parties, including the BNP, opposed the EVM while attending talks with the EC in 2017, and 11 parties including the AL supported it.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Education Engineering Department

Tangail

Invitation for eGP-Tender

Tender Notice No. 01/ee/eed/tang/2022-23

Memo No. 37.07.9300.000.18.001.22-597

Date: 19.09.2022

e-Tender is hereby invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works/goods mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Online tender publishing date (on/after)	Online tender opening & closing (date & time)
1.	734407	Vertical Extension (1st, 2nd & 3rd floor) of Existing (Four Storied Foundation) Academic Building including Sanitary, Water Supply & Electrification Works at Nurjahan Khosru Adarsha High School, Upazila-Kalihati, District-Tangail.	20.09.2022	Please visit Tender Notice in e-GP website

ii) This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal according to the above tender ID and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

iii) To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

iv) The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following Package from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches.

v) Further information and guidelines are available in the Procuring Entity Office, National e-GP System Portal in accordance with tender ID and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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