

# The Daily Star Newspaper Analysis in Sync with BCS Written Syllabus!

**11<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**



The Daily Star—Front page

## Afghanistan at risk of total collapse: UN

Int'l community urged to keep flowing money into the country; Taliban accused of harassment

The United Nations has warned that Afghanistan is at risk of “total breakdown” if the international community does not find a way to keep money flowing into Afghanistan despite concerns over the Taliban government. The warning comes as a second charter flight was due to leave Afghanistan yesterday carrying foreigners and Afghans to Qatar in a sign the country’s main airport was close to resuming commercial operations. It also comes as the United Nations warned of “credible allegations” of reprisal killings by the Taliban.

Unconfirmed reports in the capital, meanwhile, suggested the Taliban may hold a ceremony to swear in the new government today-- the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks that triggered the end of their first stint in power.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said in a report released on Thursday that about 97 percent of Afghanistan’s population may sink below the poverty line unless the country’s political and economic crises are addressed. Nearly \$10bn of Afghanistan’s central bank assets

are currently frozen overseas and considered key leverage over the new administration.

But the UN special envoy on Afghanistan Deborah Lyons told the Security Council on Thursday that a way needed to be found to get the money into the country “to prevent a total breakdown of the economy and social order” noting that Afghanistan was facing a storm of crises including a plunging currency, a sharp rise in prices for food and fuel and a lack of cash at private banks. The authorities also do not have the funds to pay salaries, she said. be found to get the money into the country “to prevent a total breakdown of the economy and social order” noting that Afghanistan was facing a storm of crises including a plunging currency, a sharp rise in prices for food and fuel and a lack of cash at private banks. The authorities also do not have the funds to pay salaries, she said.



## 2001 SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS IN THE US: TIMELINE

149 minutes to the collapse of both twin towers

<p><b>7:59</b></p> <p>American Airlines Flight 11 takes off Boston to Los Angeles</p> <p>Boeing 767 81 passengers (including 5 hijackers)</p> <p>2 pilots 9 Flight Attendants</p>	<p><b>8:14</b></p> <p>United Airlines Flight 175 takes off Boston to Los Angeles</p> <p>Boeing 767 56 passengers (including 5 hijackers)</p> <p>2 pilots 7 FAs</p>	<p><b>8:19</b></p> <p>Flight attendant notifies American Airlines of hijacking of AA 11</p>	<p><b>8:20</b></p> <p>American Airlines Flight 77 takes off Washington DC to L.A.</p> <p>Boeing 757 58 passengers (including 5 hijackers)</p> <p>2 pilots 4 FAs</p>	<p><b>8:42</b></p> <p>United Airlines Flight 93 takes off Newark to San Francisco</p> <p>Boeing 757 37 passengers (including 4 hijackers)</p> <p>2 pilots 5 FAs</p>
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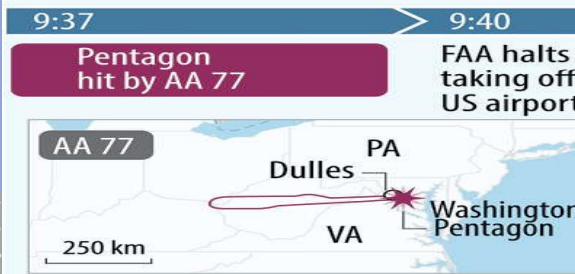
<p><b>8:46</b></p> <p>AA 11 crashes into 1 WTC</p>	<p><b>8:52</b></p> <p>Flight attendant notifies United Airlines of hijacking of UA 175</p>	<p><b>9:03</b></p> <p>UA 175 crashes into 2 WTC</p>	<p><b>9:05</b></p> <p>President George W. Bush is informed of the attacks on the Twin Towers</p>	<p><b>9:05</b></p> <p>American Airlines HQ aware that AA 77 is hijacked</p>	<p><b>9:34</b></p> <p>FAA informed UA 93 is hijacked</p>
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**North Tower (1 WTC)**  
Explodes through floors 93-99; cuts off escape route for floors above 92nd



**South Tower (2 WTC)**  
Banks and crashes through floors 77-85, one stairwell survives initial impact



Impact causes partial collapse of west side

<p><b>9:37</b></p> <p>Pentagon hit by AA 77</p>	<p><b>9:40</b></p> <p>FAA halts all flights taking off at US airports</p>	<p><b>9:58</b></p> <p>2 WTC collapses</p>	<p><b>10:03</b></p> <p>UA 93 crashes in a field in Pennsylvania</p>	<p><b>10:24</b></p> <p>All US bound flights diverted to Canada</p>	<p><b>10:28</b></p> <p>1 WTC collapses</p>
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Crashes into a field after a revolt against hijackers; mobile phone transcripts show that passengers had learned about the other attacks

**Death toll of victims : 2,977**

	New York	Washington	Shanksville
AA 11	87	AA 77 59	UA 93 40
UA 175	60	Ground 125	
Ground	2,606		

## US-China ties to decide 'destiny of the world'

Says Xi as he holds talks with Biden to avoid conflict

US President Joe Biden and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping talked for the first time in seven months Thursday, with both leaders urging a path away from conflict but holding ground on fierce competition between the superpowers.

In the 90-minute call, Biden warned against misunderstandings that could lead to confrontation between Washington and Beijing, the White House said, while Xi called for a new direction in a relationship beset by "serious difficulties".

US-China relations went into a nosedive under Biden's predecessor Donald Trump, who launched a trade war between the world's number one and two economies and harangued the Chinese government for its handling of the coronavirus pandemic. Biden's administration, while urging multilateralism and an end to Trump's "America first" ideology, has kept trade tariffs in place and remains tough on other contentious areas of the relationship with Beijing, such as cybersecurity and human rights.



During the call, Biden's message was that the United States wants to ensure **"we don't have any situation in the future where we veer into unintended conflict,"** a senior US administration official told reporters.

**In Beijing, state broadcaster CCTV reported that the phone call was "candid, in-depth" with Xi noting the "serious difficulties" caused by recent US policy towards China, which has seen the countries joust over trade, tech, human rights and the origins of the coronavirus.**

## The Daily Star--International page US-China ties to decide 'destiny of the world' contd.

Says Xi as he holds talks with Biden to avoid conflict

"Whether China and the US can properly handle their relations... is critical for the future and destiny of the world. And this is a question of the century that both countries must answer," state broadcaster CCTV said citing Xi.

The White House signaled the diplomatic impasse is unsustainable and potentially dangerous, requiring intervention by the leaders in Thursday's call.

"We welcome stiff competition but we don't want that competition to veer into conflict," the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told reporters.

**The goal of the call was to set out "guardrails" so that the relationship can be "managed responsibly."**

**Lower level attempts to engage with China have not gone well, especially at an angry March exchange between Secretary of State Antony Blinken and top Chinese officials when they met in Anchorage, Alaska.**



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Faced with the impasse, **"President Biden understood the importance of engaging President Xi directly,"** the official said. Thursday's call focused on **"broad and strategic"** issues, with no concrete decisions expected on outstanding issues or setting up a first Biden-Xi summit, the official said.

The list of disagreements between Washington and Beijing is long and growing.

**Beyond trade, with the White House official complaining of "China's unfair and coercive trade practices," there is deepening tension over China's claims to Taiwan and numerous islands in the South China Sea.**



Clashes between troops, anti-junta forces

## At least 10 killed in restive Myanmar

Myanmar troops killed several members of a local **“defence force”** in a day of clashes, the junta said yesterday, with local residents and media reporting at least 10 dead.

**The country has been in turmoil since a February coup and a military crackdown on dissent that has killed more than 1,000 people**, according to a local monitoring group.

Junta troops were attacked with **“small arms and homemade guns”** as they entered Myin Thar village in the western Magway region on Thursday, army spokesman Zaw Min Tun told state-backed People Media.

The soldiers, who were searching for members of a local **“Peoples’ Defence Force”** had killed a number of fighters, he said, without giving an exact figure. **Soldiers set fire to several houses after the clash, residents said. Local media reported between 10 and 15 locals had been killed.**

On Tuesday around a dozen military-owned communications towers were destroyed, the same day a shadow government working to reverse the coup called for a **“people’s defensive war against the junta.”** The **“National Unity Government”** is made up of dissident lawmakers in hiding or exile, many of them from ousted Aung San Suu Kyi’s party.

**International Affairs---Politics in South Asia:India-Pakistan relations, Bangladesh-India relations, regional integration, water dispute, border problems and terrorism**

## 9/11: The Turning Point

In September 2001, soon after the attack on the Twin Towers, the Bangladesh government issued a public announcement to contact the America & Pacific wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the whereabouts of Bangladeshi residents. The director concerned was travelling from Barishal to Dhaka that evening; he remained ignorant of the horrible incident that had taken place that day. He came directly from Sadarghat to his office and started receiving a flurry of phone calls from worried relatives. He called in his associate, my wife, and asked: **“What’s the deal with the Twin Towers?”** My wife briefed him, but he was in utter disbelief. **“What do you mean the towers have collapsed? How could that even happen?”** he exclaimed. My wife used two pencils and an eraser to demonstrate the incident, only to confuse the man even further. He rested his chin against his hand, and said: **“Thank God, I took a photo in front of those buildings during my last visit.”**

The Daily Star—Editorial Page

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The US-led campaign against terrorism in a post-9/11 world has made things worse, not better.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS



## 9/11: The Turning Point contd.

The emotional turnabout from denial to acceptance can be explained through the Kübler-Ross model of grief management. The same stages can be detected in the American attitude towards 9/11 if we think of the calamitous military withdrawal from Afghanistan as a form of acceptance. Once the anger phase following the initial denial was subdued, there was a series of bargains and depressions that characterise the American response in the last 20 years.

The disbelief that a terror attack could occur in the American heartland led the Americans to believe that the worldwide War on Terror was needed for the protection of the free world. President George W Bush vowed that they would bring the war to the terrorists, dividing the world into the “us” and “them” camps.

I vividly remember when the first air raid took place; CNN showed pictures of Afghan fighters riding horses, with the commentator saying: **“This is the war between the 21st century and the 11th century.”** The war exposed the clash of civilisations, as American political scientist Samuel Huntington theorised, and spread to Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Pakistan, among other places. Following 9/11, the US

narrative started painting the Muslim world with the brush with which their indigenous population was once portrayed: the noble savage and the bloodthirsty savage. Individuals such as Malala would therefore become the good Muslims, while the Taliban were the bad ones. Crediting some Muslims as innocent till proven guilty was the bargain that the US was ready to offer, which justified its trade deals with oil-rich countries.

Then the rise of the number of soldiers in body bags and the trillions of dollars from the taxpayers’ money spent to restore democracy or fix rogue states caused nationwide depression, leading to the endgame officiated by the Biden administration. **The Taliban returned to power on the heels of an agreement they had signed with the US in Qatar last year, and the suicide attack at Kabul airport shows that Afghanistan still remains a safe haven for al-Qaeda and Islamic State. Does it mean, after 20 years, we are back to the denial-anger-bargain-depression-acceptance cycle all over again?**

## 9/11: The Turning Point contd.

Then again, it would be a fallacy to think that these emotional categories exist in watertight compartments. Is it possible for the anger to burn out so easily when so many lives are lost and the national pride is hurt? We have already seen how the slow-burning anger can morph into xenophobia and Islamophobia that allowed President Donald Trump's illiberalism to flourish.

**How has 9/11 changed the world?** For brown people like me, with Islam written as the religion on my passport, being routinely pulled out for random checks or getting extra Thai massage at the airport security line has become more frequent than ever. To be honest, such racial profiling does not make me angry anymore. I know many of my friends who live in the US had to change their names to avoid backlash soon after the tragic incident. Now we live in a post-9/11 world where we have accepted such nuisance as normal, just like we have learned to live with surveillance in a Big Brother state. In defining who the enemy is, America has defined itself too.

The arrows and olive branch held by the American icon, a bald eagle, used to traditionally determine the hawkish and dovish foreign policies of different administrations—9/11 changed all that. **America no longer wants the puritan belief of being an exclusive indispensable role model for the world. In unleashing its Global War on Terror, America had to change some of its essential values. It started violating its own laws. Illegal confinement and interrogation outside its territories and ghost flights suspending its habeas corpus is a case in point. The post-9/11 America saw most of the global challenges around the world through the lenses of Islamic terrorism and the crusade dictum.** Exuberant spending on the War on Terror allowed certain groups to become richer and more influential than ever. The extra funding created mercenary militia and innovative weaponry. The surveillance system became more sophisticated than ever to encroach upon the liberty of every civilian. The system became corrupt. And what's dangerous is that the US model is being replicated by governments across the world.

## 9/11: The Turning Point contd.

Police forces now behave like the military. And the radical terrorists see the reflection of their enemies in totalitarian and dictatorial states. The ground zero has shifted so much that it is no longer possible to pin down on the centre of terrorism or to identify the cocoons of terror. The connect-the-dots investigative journalism of Michael Moore's documentary, "**Fahrenheit 9/11**," argued that the inner circle of the Bush administration used media to cash in on the fearmongering and benefit from the wars.

Whether such paranoia is true or not is for the American people to decide.

**The US had the world's sympathy for 9/11. The attacks did characterise the assault on the heart and soul of every freedom-loving soul. When the US went after the perpetrators of 9/11 in the mountainous terrains of Afghanistan, the sympathy remained intact.**

The democratic changes and the nation-building process in Afghanistan were heart-warming to see. **The retreat from Kabul, however, tells a different story. It takes us back to the question: Why did the Twin Towers fall? How did it change not only the US but also the whole world? There are people who would still like to hold on to the image of a pre-9/11 America with its signature skyline.**

**Shamsad Mortuza is acting vice-chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), and a professor of English at Dhaka University (on leave).**

file Photo: **REUTERS**

### Winners and losers of the West's 'forever wars'

Today marks 20 years of the 9/11 attacks on the US masterminded by Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda and a bunch of “ragheads” (as angry racist US soldiers called them) sitting in some cave in Afghanistan, as per the West’s dubious official narrative of what transpired on this day. Even though there are still a thousand unanswered questions about what really happened, the events of 9/11 and what followed are undoubtedly the most important world-shaping occurrences of the 21st century.

It significantly changed the West’s foreign policy (particularly the US) and marked the start of the War on Terror—an odd turn really, since al-Qaeda was of its own making. Hillary Clinton, for example, when she was the US secretary of state, once asked during her testimony to Congress why the US was in Afghanistan

fighting the same people that they once funded to fight the Soviet Union—namely the Mujahideen.



### Winners and losers of the West's 'forever wars' contd.

The first country the West invaded in its War on Terror was Afghanistan. Two long decades later, it has finally ended its occupation of that country, with mixed results, even according to its most ardent supporters and unapologetic war-hawks—including politicians on both sides of the Atlantic, experts and media personalities across the partisan line.

According to the latest report by Brown University's "Costs of War" Project, the US-led war on terror has killed nearly one million people globally and cost more than USD 8 trillion. Even though the death toll in the report pales in comparison to another estimate from 2015 done by the Nobel Prize-winning Physicians for Social Responsibility—which said more than one million people were killed both indirectly and directly in wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan alone, never mind other places like Libya, Syria, etc—it is still significant.

Meanwhile, the economic costs tallied by the "Costs of War" report include USD 2.3 trillion spent by the US government on military operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan, USD 2.1 trillion in Iraq and Syria, and USD 355 billion in Somalia and other regions of Africa, with an additional USD 1.1 trillion spent on domestic security measures in the US since 2001, bringing direct expenditures from the war on terror at home and abroad to an astronomical USD 5.8 trillion. Moreover, according to an earlier report by the same group, the wars the US government has fought since 9/11 have forced at least 37 million people—perhaps as many as 59 million—to flee their homes. In Afghanistan and Iraq alone, the total number of displaced people reached 14.5 million. Alongside that, the report included 3.7 million Pakistanis, 1.7 million Filipinos, 4.2 million Somalis, 4.4 million Yemenis, 1.2 million Libyans and 7.1 million Syrians who were displaced.

So, what did the US, the people living in these regions, and the world get in return?

## The Daily Star—Opinion Page

### Winners and losers of the West's 'forever wars' contd.

Well, the US spent trillions of dollars of its own taxpayers' income, became a surveillance state—as exposed by NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden—and surrendered the constitutional rights of its own citizens. Also, in the so-called pursuit of “exporting democracy,” it sacrificed its own democratic ideals, such as granting US presidents the power to go to war without congressional approval. US soldiers, along with soldiers of other NATO countries, committed all sorts of atrocities worthy of being called war crimes, including torture—as exposed by CIA whistleblower John Kiriakou. Its troops killed hundreds of thousands of people in the countries they occupied, such as Afghanistan and Iraq—as exposed by documents published by WikiLeaks in their “Afghan War Diary” and “Iraq War Logs”—and then lied about it.

According to a 2011 poll, six in 10 Americans believed that the US had weakened its economy by

overspending in its responses to the 9/11 attacks. And two out of every three Americans perceived that since 9/11, US power and influence in the world declined.

The people in these regions, needless to say, suffered tremendously. Thousands of people died and millions were injured. Those who made it out alive couldn't possibly do so without suffering some sort of major trauma.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban has now once again returned to power and are better armed, thanks to US-made weapons. In Iraq, one poll from 2016 found that more than 90 percent of young people considered the US an enemy of their country. Peoples' sentiment was found to be similar in other countries, and they believed that the West had destabilised Syria, Somalia and Libya.

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### Winners and losers of the West's 'forever wars' contd.

Islamic extremism has only increased and spread out all across the world, mainly as a reactionary expression of anger against the violent conduct of the West. The Islamic State, which was largely created by the US invasion of Iraq, at one point controlled vast swaths of territory in Iraq, Syria and Libya, only to be pushed back by the West's seemingly sworn enemies such as the Assad government in Syria, Iran and Russia. Evidence has even come out showing that the West actually funded some of these radical elements for geopolitical gains against its rivals.

The destabilisation of countries—particularly in the Middle East—has led to mass migrations of people, and the European migrant crisis that we witnessed a few years ago was a direct result of the West's interventionist policy. These migrations, in turn, have resulted in increased tensions between different

cultures, people, and religions, and have possibly supplied even more fuel for future fires.

So, from that perspective, has the War on Terror and Western interventionism been a failure? Well, it depends on your definition of success and failure.

Following the recent US withdrawal from Afghanistan, a 2011 video clip of WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange went viral. In it, the now incarcerated journalist—who, by the way, is yet to be convicted of any crime, but has published evidence that could possibly implicate Western leaders of being responsible for sanctioning war crimes—said that the US goal in Afghanistan is not to completely subjugate the country. "The goal is to use Afghanistan to wash money out of the tax bases of the US and Europe through Afghanistan and back into the hands of a transnational security elite. The goal is an endless war, not a successful war."



## Winners and losers of the West's 'forever wars' contd.

From that perspective, the War on Terror has been a success. According to The Intercept, over the past 20 years, returns on stocks of the five biggest US defence contractors—Boeing, Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and General Dynamics—outperformed the overall stock market by 58 percent.

“A USD 10,000 investment in stock evenly split across those five companies on the day in 2001 that then President George W Bush signed the authorisation preceding the US invasion would be worth USD 97,295 this week,” The Intercept reported on August 21. These numbers, according to journalist Jon Schwarz, “suggest that it is incorrect to conclude that the Taliban’s immediate takeover of Afghanistan upon the US’s departure means that the Afghanistan War was a failure.”

“On the contrary, from the perspective of some of the most powerful people in the US, it may have been an extraordinary success. Notably, the boards of directors of all five defence contractors include retired top-level military officers,” he says.

For everyone else, however, the War on Terror has been a mostly painful and costly disaster, proving the words of Major General Smedley Butler—one of the most decorated soldiers in all US history—true: “War is a racket.”

Eresh Omar Jamal is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star.

His Twitter handle is: @EreshOmarJamal

File photo: Reuters



## Road to Freedom

### This Day in Bangladesh Liberation War History

#### Only self-rule will satisfy Bangladesh: Galbraith MUSHTAQUE TO LEAD DELEGATION TO UN

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed would present the case of Bangladesh before the UN General Assembly. He would be assisted by a strong team of experts including Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mahbub Alam and diplomat Abul Fateh. The decision to send a strong delegation to the UN General Assembly had been taken by the Bangladesh government in the light of the recent discussions at political level with different parties in Bangladesh. In fact, the Consultative Committee, formed with five-party representatives had found it necessary to rouse the conscience of the world to the realities in Bangladesh.

#### GALBRAITH URGES FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

Professor John Kenneth Galbraith, former US Ambassador to India, said today at the Calcutta Press Club that because of the massive influx of evacuees from Bangladesh to India, the Bangladesh issue had ceased to be an internal affair of Pakistan. He also refused to distinguish between political aspects of the issue and the evacuee question. "Two cannot be viewed separately," he opined.

Earlier today Professor Galbraith discussed various aspects of Bangladesh issues with the Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed and Bangladesh High Commissioner to India M Hossain Ali. After his visit to the evacuee camp and his talks with Bangladesh leaders Professor Galbraith was convinced that only self-government would satisfy the people of Bangladesh.

The Daily Star—Last Page

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Thank you !!

