

EU SNUBS SUU KYI
The 27-member- block cuts the Myanmar state councillor from rights prize honorees
SEE PAGE 6

THE DAILY

Star ON FRIDAY



www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781 | Vol. XXX No. 229 | BHADRA 27, 1427 BS | Your Right to Know | MUHARRAM 22, 1442 HIJRI | 16 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE PRICE : Tk12.00

BANGLADESH UPDATE 1,892 New cases in 24hrs | 3,32,970 Total cases | 4,634 Deaths | 2,33,550 Recoveries | **GLOBAL UPDATE** 909,570 Deaths | 28,111,887 Total cases

PM ON EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS, CRIMES

Govt not sparing anyone involved

'Don't demoralise law enforcers by unnecessary criticism'



"We will take the vaccine that comes first and use it to save our people from the novel coronavirus."

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government was not sparing anyone involved in extrajudicial killings.

Delivering her closing speech at the ninth session of the current parliament, she said, "We are not sparing anyone involved in extrajudicial killings and we never do that."

The PM called upon all to be considerate over criticising law enforcers as they have been working to tackle narcotics, terrorism and militancy by risking their lives.

She made the comments in response to criticism of the government and law enforcement agencies by deputy opposition leader GM Quader over extrajudicial killings.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Using a hammer, a worker demolishes a part of a building in Kholamora Munshihaat area of the capital's Kamrangirchar yesterday. The building's owner hired workers for the work as the BIWTA was carrying out a drive in the area to remove illegal structures from the Buriganga. The owner said part of his building was legal and that he feared the BIWTA might demolish the entire building.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PROBE INTO COPS' CRIMES

53 SC lawyers for forming independent commission

Send legal notice to IGP, govt high-ups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-three Supreme Court lawyers yesterday collectively sent a legal notice to the government, requesting it to constitute an independent commission to investigate the allegations against law enforcers of committing crimes.

Mohammad Shishir Manir, one of the lawyers, served the legal notice on behalf of all 53 lawyers to the home secretary, law secretary and the inspector general of police, asking them to form the commission titled the "Police Complaint Investigation Commission" within four weeks.

They said in the legal notice that a section of law enforcers were reportedly involved in 18

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

CHINESE COVID-19 VACCINE CANDIDATE

Clinical trial begins here this month

Icddr,b to maintain highest level of safety in the trial on 4,200 healthcare professionals

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN and PORIMOL PALMA

Already trailing behind in the race to get a potential Covid-19 vaccine, Bangladesh is all set to start the much-talked-about clinical trial of the Chinese shot by the end of this month.

The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) will run the human trial of the potential vaccine, developed by China's Sinovac Life Sciences Co Ltd, on 4,200 healthcare professionals, maintaining the highest level of safety measures.

Officials at icddr,b say they have almost completed the process of importing the vaccine candidate and are expecting to get the necessary doses for the trial by this month.

"The trial will be conducted among



Bangladeshi healthcare workers in order to determine the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. We believe that this trial, if successful, will be a great credit to the people and the government of Bangladesh," Prof John D Clemens, executive director of icddr,b, told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

The government took the final decision of the Chinese vaccine trial in late August, more than a month after approval by the Bangladesh Medical Research Council.

Medical scientists say the trial will help improve Bangladesh's capacity of vaccine research and ensure access to low-cost vaccines, the most sought-after commodity during the pandemic.

According to the agreement with icddr,b, once the vaccine candidate called CoronaVac, already under trial in multiple

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Covid vaccine still possible this year

Says AstraZeneca despite setback; India reports record Covid-19 cases, deaths

AGENCIES

Drugs giant AstraZeneca yesterday said a Covid-19 vaccine could still be available by as early as the end of the year, despite a randomised clinical trial being paused.

"We could still have a vaccine by the end of this year, early next year," the UK-based company's chief executive Pascal Soriot said in comments at a media event.

AstraZeneca announced Wednesday it had "voluntarily paused" its trial of a drug developed alongside Oxford University after a UK volunteer developed an unexplained illness.

An independent committee was drafted in to review safety but the company said it was a "routine action" designed to maintain the integrity of the trials.

"We will be guided by this committee as to when the trials could restart, so that we can continue our work at the earliest opportunity," Soriot said in a statement.

AstraZeneca's vaccine candidate is one of nine around the world currently in late-

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

ZERO BORDER KILLINGS

Promise that keeps ringing hollow

SHARIFUL ISLAM

For years, India has been promising to bring the killing of Bangladeshis along the Indo-Bangla border down to zero.

But the reality is, border killings by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personnel have been on the rise in recent years.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will again ask its Indian counterpart to stay true to its words during the annual border guards director general-level talks at the BGB Pikhana headquarters from September 13-18.

BGB DG Maj Gen Md Shafeenul Islam would lead the Bangladesh side while newly-appointed DG of BSF Rakesh Asthana would lead his country at the meeting, the first of which was held in 1975.

BGB officials said border killings would be the primary topic of discussion as Bangladesh and Indian foreign secretaries discussed it during the latter's recent visit to Dhaka.

Untreated household, industrial, and medical waste flowing into Bangladesh via a canal in Akhaura would also have priority during the discussions, the officials said.

Data from rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) shows that 15 people had been killed along the Indo-Bangla border in 2018. The number rose to 43 last year. In the first seven months of this year, 29 people were killed.

Most of the victims were unarmed and shot dead.

Even yesterday, a 30-year-old man was shot dead allegedly by BSF men when he was fishing in Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon.

Some were tortured to death.

One of the victims died after BSF men allegedly forced petrol into his mouth and rectum.

All fingernails of another victim were pulled out with pliers after he was detained for illegal entry into Indian territories.

BANGLADESHI MAN KILLED IN BSF FIRING -- PAGE 2

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

THE THIRD VIEW



MAHFUZZ ANAM

PM's 'martial law' comment reflects people's deeply held belief

SEE PAGE 9

N'GANJ MOSQUE BLAST

Probe body seeks another week to submit report

Death toll rises to 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more men injured in the Narayanganj mosque fire died yesterday, raising the toll to 31.

Abdus Sattar, 40, breathed his last around 9:30am, Nazrul Islam, 50, around 4:00pm, and Sheikh Farid, 21, around 4:45pm, at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, officials said.

Several others with critical injuries are being treated at the intensive care unit, they added.

The tragedy at Pashchim Talla Baitus Salat Masjid in Narayanganj happened around 8:45pm on September 4. A police investigation concluded that leaky gas pipes left unfixed have caused the tragedy.

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited then suspended eight of its employees over negligence.

Meanwhile, a probe committee looking into the fire requested the authorities for an extension of its report submission deadline by seven days.

Narayanganj Deputy Commissioner Jashim Uddin said he received a letter requesting the extension by committee chief Additional District Magistrate Khadija Tahera Bobby.

"I asked the committee to submit

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Safura Begum waits outside the capital's Mugda General Hospital for Covid-19 testing. The 70-year-old woman, who had been suffering from fever, cough, and cold for the last seven days, went to the hospital around 5:00am yesterday from Rayerbagh, where she lives with her family. The hospital authorities have said the number of people seeking to be tested there has increased lately.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

RENU'S DEATH IN MOB BEATING

Police submit charge sheet against 15

Leave four suspects out of it for 'lack of details'

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The police probe has found involvement of 19 people in the killing of Taslima Begum Renu in the capital's Badda last year.

Investigation officer of the case, however, submitted charge sheet to a Dhaka court yesterday against 15 accused. The names of four other accused were not mentioned in the charge sheet as their "details could not be found during the investigation."

"Whenever we get the details of the four accused and will be able to arrest them, their names will also be included in the charge sheet," Detective Branch Inspector Abdul Haque, also the IO of the case, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Of the 15 charge-sheeted accused, 14 are already arrested while one is on the run. Three of the arrestees have made confessional statements. The accused are either vendors of a local Bazar or pedestrians, the IO added.

On July 20 last year, 40-year old Taslima, a single mother of four-and-a-half-year-old Tuba and Ta-seen al Mahir, a fifth-grader, had gone to Badda Uttar-Purba Primary School to inquire about admission in hopes of getting Tuba enrolled.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1