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SHAH CEMENT

US-BROKERED HISTORIC DEALS

UAE, Bahrain forge ties with Israel

Palestinians protest; Israeli jets bomb Gaza after rocket fire

AGENCIES

The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed agreements on Tuesday to establish formal ties with Israel, becoming the first Arab states in a quarter century to break a longstanding taboo, in a strategic realignment of Middle East countries against Iran.

US President Donald Trump hosted the White House ceremony, capping a dramatic month when first the UAE and then Bahrain agreed to reverse decades of ill will without a resolution of Israel's dispute with the Palestinians.

In front of a crowd of several hundred people on the White House lawn, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed accords with Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan and Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdulatif Al Zayani.

The deals, denounced by the Palestinians, make them the third and fourth Arab states to take such steps toward normalizing relations since Israel signed peace treaties with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said only an Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories can bring peace to the Middle East.

"Peace, security and stability will not be achieved in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



People standing on a fragile strip of land, which has been shrinking fast due to river erosion, to see the Padma bridge in the distance, ignoring the risks. A construction shed of Chinese employees working for the bridge is just a 100 yards away and also at risk of being devoured by the river. The photo was taken recently in Munshiganj.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Cox's Bazar SP, 5 others transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Within weeks, another change has been made in Chattogram Range Police and this time Superintendent of Cox's Bazar Police ABM Masud Hossain has been transferred to Rajshahi district as SP.

The home ministry yesterday issued a circular mentioning the transfer of SP Masud and five other high officials, including SPs of two other districts and two metropolitan police commissioners.

Signed by Dhananjay Kumar Das, deputy secretary of the ministry's Public Security Division, the circular read that Md Hasanuzzaman, superintendent of Jhenidah police, would be the new Cox's Bazar SP.

SP Masud's name came to the fore when a leaked phone conversation between ex-OC Pradeep Kumar Das and him went viral on social media after the killing of Major (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashid Khan on July 31 night.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Neo-JMB leader confesses to killing missing man

Body not found; SITE uploads victim's photo; CTTC arrests 4

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A Neo-JMB leader has confessed to a court that a sleeper cell of the militant group killed a man whose photograph is uploaded on the website of SITE Intelligence Group.

The picture, captioned "IS Documents Execution of Practitioner of Witchcraft in North of Bangladeshi Capital", is of Sohail Rana, 39, from Shilasi village in Mymensingh's Gafargaon.

SITE Intelligence, which monitors the online activities militant group ISIS, released the picture on August 16. In it, Sohail is seen bald, wearing a purple vest, two large beaded necklaces and an identity card around his neck.

Sheikh Sultan Mohammad Naimuzzaman, leader if a Neo-JMB cell, who was arrested with four others on August 11 in Sylhet, confessed to a magistrate on August 24 that a Gazipur-based Neo-JMB sleeper cell of five killed Sohail, who they called "shadhubaba", said an official from The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Unit (CTTC).

It claimed to have arrested four of the murder suspects on September 10 from Azampur area of the capital's Uttara. They

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Election preparation starts

September 17, 1972
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

VOTERS' LIST FROM OCT 1

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Idrees announces in Dhaka today that enumeration of the voters and the preparation of voters' lists would begin on October 1 this year and the final voters' list would be published on January 30 next year. Addressing the nation over radio and television, the chief election commissioner says that the election authorities are determined to hold the general election in smooth and disciplined manner which, he adds, is imperative for holding impartial election in the country.

'MY ELECTION PREPARATION STARTS TODAY'

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman spends his third consecutive busy day today after his return to the country. Bangabandhu reaches the Gono Bhaban at 10:00am and stays until 8:30pm. Bangabandhu confers with the Information Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Revenue Minister Abdur Rahb Serniabat in the morning.

In the evening, Commerce Minister MR Siddique, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Minister for Power, Natural Resources and Scientific Research Dr Mafiz Chowdhury call on Bangabandhu and apprise him of different problems faced by their respective ministries.

At 8:05pm Bangabandhu, along with some of his cabinet

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Fortify Rights wants release of probe report

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Regional rights organisation Fortify Rights has called upon Malaysia to immediately release the final report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) into the human trafficking and mass graves of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis discovered in Wang Kelian, Perlis in 2015.

The RCI submitted to the King of Malaysia one year ago its report on the mass graves in Wang Kelian, where Malaysian authorities discovered 139 graves and 28 suspected human trafficking camps.

"Malaysian citizens and survivors of trafficking deserve access to the final report," said Matthew Smith, chief executive officer at Fortify Rights in a statement yesterday. "This is a matter of truth, justice, and accountability."

Between 2012 and 2015,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

World's longest tunnel above 10,000ft ready



NDTV ONLINE

The construction of the Atal Tunnel connecting Manali with Leh, which is the world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 feet, has been completed in a span of 10 years whereas the original estimated time was less than six years.

"Atal Tunnel, connecting Manali to Leh, is the world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 feet. The estimated period for completion of this tunnel was less than 6 years but it was completed in 10 years," said KP Purushothaman, Chief Engineer.

"There are CCTV cameras at every 60 metres and emergency exit tunnels at every 500 metres inside the tunnel. The tunnel will reduce the distance

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Rifat Murder Case Court sets Sept 30 for verdict delivery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The verdict of much talked about Rifat Sharif murder case would be delivered on September 30.

Barguna District and Sessions Judge Asaduzzaman declared the date yesterday noon after closing arguments for both plaintiff and prosecution of the case.

On the day, the verdict will be delivered for 10 adult accused of the case.

Fourteen more juveniles accused of case were undergoing trial at the children's court in the district.

Prosecutor Bhuvan Chandra Halder said, "As per the pre-arranged date, the rest of the arguments in the case were presented today [Wednesday]. The court set September 30 as the date of verdict after the argument finished."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

ATTACK ON UNO Police hush about witnesses' statements

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The Detective Branch of police has recorded testimonies of three witnesses under Section-164 in connection with a case filed over the attack on Ghoraghat Upazila Nirbahi Officer.

The authorities, however, expressed their inability to share any further details of the testimonies with journalists.

The first testimony was recorded on Saturday while two more were recorded on Tuesday afternoon. Imam Zafar, investigation officer

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Cars seized for various reasons are left to wear away on the footpath in front of Uttara South Police Station. While obstructing sidewalks is illegal, and the DNCC mayor has begun a drive against such practices, the officials of the police station seem to be least bothered about the problems the pedestrians face.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Pandemic at beginning stage

Warns WHO; Indian hospitals scramble for oxygen; Russia to sell 100m doses of vaccine to India

AGENCIES

The world is still at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, a World Health Organization special envoy on Covid-19 said as infections in India soared past five million yesterday.

Global cases are rapidly approaching 30 million, with more than 936,000 known Covid-19 deaths, the global economy devastated and nations struggling to contain outbreaks.

In the frantic global race to battle the disease, the EU's chief warned against "vaccine nationalism". "None of us will be safe until all of us are safe -- wherever we live, whatever we have," Ursula von der Leyen said.

The spread of the virus has accelerated in some of the most populous parts of the world such as India, where the latest million infections were detected over just 11 days.

And some experts have warned that the total number of cases could be far higher in the vast nation, which has been easing one of the world's strictest lockdowns recently despite the surge to help its reeling economy.

"People have lost their fear or are too tired (of) being cautious. They want to be out and earn a living right now," Jayant Surana, a New Delhi-based entrepreneur, told AFP.

"Everything has now been left to god's will."

The surge in infections is piling pressure on hospitals grappling with unreliable supplies of oxygen that they need to treat tens of thousands of critical patients.

In the big states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, that are also some of the worst-affected by the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 17

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
4:35	12:45	4:30	6:14	7:45	
JAMAT	5:10	1:15	4:45	6:17	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION