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US JUSTICE GINSBERG'S DEATH Fierce battle looms over succession

AGENCIES

A fierce political battle shaped up over the future of the US Supreme Court yesterday, with President Donald Trump saying he would quickly name a successor to liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died on Friday, a move that would tip the court further to the right.

Affectionately known as the Notorious RBG, the 87-year-old Ginsburg was the oldest of nine Supreme Court justices.

She died after a fight with pancreatic cancer, the court announced, saying she passed away "surrounded by her family at her home in Washington, DC."

Ginsburg was appointed in 1993 by President Bill Clinton. She consistently delivered progressive votes on the most divisive social issues of the day, including abortion rights, same-sex marriage, voting rights, immigration, health care and affirmative action.

Coming just 46 days before an election in which Trump lags his Democratic rival Joe Biden in the polls, the vacancy offers the Republican a chance to expand the court's conservative majority to 6-3 at a time of a gaping political divide in America.

Trump -- who was told of Ginsburg's passing while on the campaign trail -- issued a statement praising her

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Locals of Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila leaving with their dismantled houses on a boat as the erosion of the Teesta river caused the flooding of a vast area in the region. Crops and homes of many went under water because of this. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: DILIP ROY

32 more die, 1,567 infected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-two Covid-19 patients died and 1,567 new cases were detected in the 24 hours preceding 8:30am yesterday.

This took the total death toll to 4,913 which is 1.41 percent of all confirmed cases, said a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

As of yesterday, the total number of confirmed cases was 3,47,372.

Yesterday's new cases were reported after testing 13,170 samples. The positivity rate was 11.90 percent and the overall positivity rate stood at 19.20 percent.

Bangladesh is currently 15th in the list of worst-affected countries in the world in terms of the number of cases.

The position is one step ahead of Saudi Arabia and one step behind the United Kingdom, according to worldometer.info.

As 2,051 Covid-19 patients recovered in

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ATTACK ON UNO 2 witnesses give judicial statements

Wahida transferred to public admin ministry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two prosecution witnesses gave judicial statements to a local court yesterday in the case of the attack on Ghoraghat UNO Wahida Khanam.

A judicial magistrate recorded their statements under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure after the Detective Branch of Dinajpur police had produced them before the magistrate.

The witnesses are Siraj, 25, a grocer at Osmanpur bazar in Ghoraghat, and a 10-year-old boy. The two are from Osmanpur in the same upazila, said police.

With them, five prosecution witnesses have so far given judicial statements to the magistrate in the case, said

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES



Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman planting the Tree of Friendship, recently brought by Moni Singh from the USSR, at the Gono Bhaban premises on September 20, 1972.

Draft Constitution finalised

September 20, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

DRAFT CONSTITUTION SENT FOR PRINTING

The Draft Constitution for the country has been finalised and sent for printing, which would be complete before the current month is out. The Drafting Committee would sit on September 30 to give a final look to the Draft Constitution, which has been originally prepared in Bangla.

The English version of the draft has also been prepared. The Bangla version will be taken as base of interpretation in future, in case of any constitutional hitch or tangle. The Draft Constitution has laid down that any citizen of Bangladesh irrespective of caste, creed, religion or race could become the head of the state if he attains the minimum age of 35 years. As for Prime Minister, any citizen of 18 years could contest the election and become the Prime Minister of the country.

BANGABANDHU VISITS HIS AILING PARENTS

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, despite

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Road crashes kill six in Gopalganj, Mymensingh

STAR REPORT

Six people, including a Chhatra League activist, were killed in separate road accidents in Mymensingh and Gopalganj in the last two days.

In Nandail upazila of Mymensingh, three people, including a father and his five-year-old son, were killed and 10 others injured when a microbus collided head-on with a pick-up van in Dangri area on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road yesterday morning.

The victims were identified as Fahad Alam, 32, his son Turan, and Fahad's aunt Jharna Begum, 45.

Fahad and his son were from Sherpur's Sreebordi upazila while Jharna was from Bakshiganj upazila in Jamalpur, police said, adding that Fahad was an assistant teacher at a government primary school in Sreebordi.

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Real-life 'Pianist' possessions up for auction



AFP, Warsaw

A fountain pen, silver pocket watch and other prized possessions of the late Jewish-Polish composer Wladyslaw Szpilman, the real-life hero of the Oscar-winning film "The Pianist," go under the hammer in Warsaw next week.

"This watch and pen that he bought on a trip to Paris in 1937 survived his whole stay in the Jewish ghetto, then kept him company in the ruins of Warsaw," said Szpilman's son Andrzej, who is

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Trucker beaten to death after running over 2 goats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A truck driver was beaten dead by a mob at Rajshahi's Puthia upazila after his vehicle ran over and killed two goats.

The victim, Abu Taleb, 33, of Jhalmalia area of the upazila, died of his injuries at Puthia Health Complex around 3:30am yesterday, said Rejaul Islam, officer-in-charge of Puthia Police Station.

Around 7:30pm on Friday, while driving on Bhabaniganj-Puthia Road, the truck ran over the two goats in Shibjait area of Bagmara upazila, the OC said quoting witnesses and after conducting primary investigation.

The driver, along with his truck, had tried to flee the scene after the incident, the OC claimed.

Some locals in 10-12 motorcycles, however, chased the truck and caught

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Biggest Thai protest in yrs targets govt, monarchy

REUTERS, Bangkok

Around 20,000 people protested in Thailand's capital yesterday against the government of former coup leader and Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, with many demonstrators also calling for reforms to the monarchy.

"Down with feudalism, long live the people," was one of the chants at the biggest demonstration in Bangkok since Prayuth took power in a 2014 coup.

Protests have been building in the southeast Asian country since mid July, demanding the

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PHOTO ON PAGE 11



Bystanders look on as a bus fell into a roadside ditch in Baliapur area of Savar yesterday, leaving at least 10 people injured. The bus driver lost control trying to avoid a truck that was driving against the traffic on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

COVID-19 DEATH TOLL Unacceptable

Says WHO

AFP, Geneva

The Covid-19 weekly death toll of around 50,000 lives is unacceptably high, the World Health Organization has said as the one million fatalities landmark approaches.

The WHO said that although global death and infection rates from the new coronavirus were plateauing rather than rising exponentially, the worldwide figures were masking surges at lower regional and local levels.

The respiratory disease has killed more than 950,000 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP, while more than 30.5 million cases have been registered.

"We're adding about 1.8 to two million cases per week to the global case count, and an average somewhere between 40,000 to 50,000 deaths," WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan told a virtual news conference.

"Thankfully that is not rising exponentially. This is a hugely high figure to be settling at. That is not where we want to be."

"Even though those numbers are flat at a global level, that covers up the fact that at regional and sub-regional level in some countries, we're seeing significant rises in cases."

Ryan said the pandemic still had a "long way to burn" and though the proportion of infected people dying had dropped as treatment techniques improved, "we cannot accept 50,000 deaths a week as an acceptable number."

Large parts of Europe on Friday geared up for broad new restrictions to stop the coronavirus and Israel enforced a second nationwide shutdown.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on Covid-19, said the UN health agency was seeing "worrying trends in the northern hemisphere" in terms of case

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 20

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
4:40	12:45	4:30	6:05	7:30	
JAMAT	5:15	1:15	4:45	6:10	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION