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## Giving it all for a dream

Santwana Rani Roy defying odds to set up martial arts school for girls in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Her strength is evident in her belief, her past, present and her dreams for the future. Fighting social norms, martial artist Santwana Rani Roy, 36, has made herself a fine example for women and girls of the country to live up to.

"Marriage is not a solution in a woman's life. Marriage is [more often than not] just a decision a family takes to save women from the harsh eyes of society," she said.

Unmarried still, she says there is a lot of pressure from family and society for marriage but she believes that first and foremost, a woman needs to be able to stand on her own two feet no matter what.

"I am still struggling to be self-reliant and self-sufficient. Women need to be self-reliant. And that is what I am working towards from my position."

Delving into martial arts is a good way for girls to become self-reliant, believes Swantana, a specialist in taekwondo -- a Korean martial art characterised by its emphasis on head-height kicks, jumping spinning kicks, and fast kicking techniques with strikes being above waist height only.

"Taekwondo helps strengthen girls' minds and helps them reach their goals," she said, adding, "Most parents in society do not come forward to give such opportunities to



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The Char Godagari Government Primary School is sinking into the Bangali river in Bogura's Sariakandi upazila. It is only a matter of time before the school building completed in 2002 is devoured by the river that has been eroding its banks over the last four days.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

## 2,191 died with Covid symptoms in last 6 months

Says Centre for Genocide Studies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 2,191 people died with Covid-19 symptoms between March 22 and September 19 this year, said a report from the Center for Genocide Studies.

Of them, the highest 843 people died in June, according to the report compiled based on the media reports during this period.

The report also included a division-wise figure of such kinds of deaths during this period.

Highest 728 deaths were recorded in Chattogram division, followed by 394 in Dhaka while the Mymensingh division saw the lowest 60 deaths.

If these numbers of deaths were counted in the official tally of coronavirus deaths, the actual number would be much higher.

Meanwhile, in the past 24 hours till 8:30am

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## Fatah, Hamas reach deal over Palestinian polls

AFP, Ramallah

Gaza rulers Hamas and their rivals in the occupied West Bank, Fatah, have agreed to hold the first Palestinian elections in nearly 15 years, officials from both sides told AFP yesterday, after two Arab countries normalised ties with Israel.

Polls will be scheduled within six months under a deal reached between Fatah leader Mahmud Abbas and Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh.

"We have agreed to first hold legislative elections, then presidential elections of the Palestinian Authority, and finally the central council of the Palestine Liberation Organization," said Jibril Rajub, a senior Fatah official.

The last Palestinian parliamentary elections were held in 2006 when Hamas won an unexpected landslide.

Saleh al-Aroui, a top Hamas official, said the deal was reached during meetings held in Turkey.

"This time we reached a real consensus," he said, speaking to AFP by phone from Istanbul.

"Divisions have damaged our national cause and we are working to end that," Aroui added.

The two sides formed a unity

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## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### Constituent assembly to sit on October 12

September 25, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MEETING SUMMONED

The Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh has been summoned today to meet on October 12 at 9:30am at the Gono Parishad Bhaban. Meeting exactly after six months of the first session of the assembly, the second session would be momentous in the history of the country as the draft constitution would be placed before the house. It will be for the first time that the draft bill will be in Bangla since the language of the country's constitution would be in Bangla. BANGABANDHU REVIEWS JUTE POLICY Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at a high-level conference today reviews various aspects of jute, the principal foreign exchange earner of the country. Problems of export of jute and jute goods, including problems of transportation, are discussed at the conference. The internal price of jute and the internal purchase programme are also reviewed. Bottle-necks encountered in the internal purchase also come up for discussion. The production in jute mills is assessed and various problems felt in jute industry are discussed with a view to taking measures for increased production. TAKE PART IN REBUILDING NATION



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## 'DEAD' GIRL FOUND ALIVE HC forms judicial body to investigate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday formed a judicial inquiry committee to probe police actions regarding the arrest of three men and the subsequent confessions of the latter to raping and killing a girl who turned out to be alive.

The fifth grader was rescued 49 days after she was abducted.

The probe committee includes the chief judicial magistrate of Narayanganj.

The HC asked the judicial inquiry committee to record statements from the investigation officers of the case, the three accused, the child and her parents.

The chief judicial magistrate of Narayanganj has been ordered to allow, if necessary, the lawyers of the accused, the girl and her parents, and the public prosecutor of the case to appear before the

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## US WWII bomber emerges from glacier in Iceland



MAIL ONLINE

A US WWII bomber has emerged from a melting glacier in Iceland 76 years after it crashed on its way to England.

The B-17 Flying Fortress bomber flew into the Eyjafjallajökull glacier in southern Iceland on September 16, 1944.

Miraculously all of its 10 crew members survived but the wreckage was abandoned and was swallowed up by the glacier.

Today, with global warming stripping the land

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## 34 policemen transferred at one go from Cox's Bazar

UNB, Dhaka

Thirty-four police inspectors posted in Cox's Bazar have been transferred out of the district.

Sources at the Police Headquarters said a notification, signed by Additional IGP Md Moinur Rahman Chowdhury, was issued in this regard on Wednesday.

The transferred inspectors were asked to take release order from their current

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#### PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 25

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:35 12:30 4:15 6:00 7:30  
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:30 6:05 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Woman gang-raped in Khagrachhari

Rapists broke into her house; two girls gang-raped in Jashore

STAR REPORT

A Chakma woman was gang-raped in Khagrachhari early yesterday, while two teenage girls were gang-raped on Wednesday night in Benapole.

Quoting the 32-year-old victim's mother, Khagrachhari police said at least nine perpetrators with sharp weapons broke into the house around 2:00am.

They then tied up her mother and stepfather and raped her. The perpetrators then beat up her mother when she tried to save her daughter. They also looted cash and gold ornaments from the house, said police.

The mother said her daughter had been suffering from mental ailments after losing her brother and father in 2005 and 2006.

The victim's relatives said all the criminals were settlers.

A case was filed with

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A monkey carries its offspring on its back as it leisurely walks on the roof of a building in Sutrapur of Old Dhaka. The people of that part of the city have accepted monkeys as part of the neighbourhood and their lives. However, some say the number of the primates have dwindled due to scarcity of food.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## Trump hedges on transferring power peacefully

Says US polls may end up at SC; Republican Senate leader promises 'orderly transition'

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump declined on Wednesday to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses the November 3 election to Democratic rival Joe Biden and said he expected the election battle to end up before the Supreme Court.

"We're going to have to see what happens," Trump, a Republican, told reporters at the White House when asked whether he would commit to transferring power.

The president, who trails Biden in national opinion polls, has repeatedly cast doubt on the legitimacy of the election, asserting without evidence that mail-in voting would lead to fraud and a "rigged" outcome.

"The ballots are a disaster," Trump said. Democrats have encouraged voting by mail as a way to cast ballots safely during the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of Americans, including much of the military, have cast absentee ballots by mail for years without problems.

In 2016, Trump also raised questions about whether he would accept the results of the election. He went on to win the presidency.

Biden, speaking to reporters in Delaware, said Trump's comments on the transition of power were "irrational."

His campaign said it was prepared for any "shenanigans" from Trump, and reiterated comments from July that "the

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