

SP BALASUBRAHMANYAM PASSES AWAY
The legendary singer dies at 74 after coronavirus-related complications
SEE PAGE 5

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'I fear the worst'
UN CHIEF WARNS WORLD IS DOOMED IF KEY ACTORS HANDLE CLIMATE CRISIS LIKE COVID-19 PAGE 5



"It would save the country a lot of agony and help lower the temperature over fights for the court."
CALIFORNIA US REPRESENTATIVE RO KHANNA ON A DEMOCRATIC BILL THAT AIMS TO LIMIT US SUPREME COURT JUSTICE TERMS TO 18 YEARS PAGE 5



"You did not deserve for them to throw you out like they did... at this stage nothing surprises me anymore."
LIONEL MESSI TO LUIS SUAREZ AFTER THE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FROM BARCELONA PAGE 11



LIFE GOES ON



ANISUR RAHMAN

Social distancing and Covid-19 transmission are evidently not high on the list of concerns. For these workers, at an iron foundry in Shyampur, the most pressing issue in life is earning the basic living that would allow them to put food on the table back home.

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Selim siphoned off Tk 13.28cr to Thailand

He made a fortune out of online gambling, finds CID
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Online casino kingpin Selim Prohdan raked in crores through online gambling in Bangladesh and amassed business firms and a villa in Thailand.
For his investments in Bangkok and Pattaya he was known among many as Thai Don.
He bought most of the properties through laundering the ill-gotten money out of the country after 2018, investigators have learnt.
After almost a year-long investigation in a case filed under the Money Laundering Act against Selim Prohdan and five others last year, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police has come to know about his wealth and properties abroad.
CID officers found evidence suggesting that Selim Prohdan and the five other accused have laundered Tk 13.28 crore they made from an online casino trade.
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Cox's Bazar police go thru' overhaul

About 1,500 cops transferred from the district within a couple of days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an unprecedented move, the police administration has transferred 1,487 of its members -- from constables to inspectors -- from Cox's Bazar.
They have been attached to different police ranges in separate phases in the last couple of days, the relevant wing of the Police Headquarters (PHQ) confirmed the matter to The Daily Star yesterday.
Of the 1,487, 40 are inspectors, 10 traffic inspectors, 179 sub-inspectors (SIs), eight sergeants, five town sub-inspectors (TSIs), 169 assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs), 19 assistant town sub-inspectors (ATISIs), 50 nayeks and 1,007 constables, said officials at the wing.
This is the biggest transfer move in any district police in recent history, said PHQ sources.
The sources said the total number of police personnel deployed in the district was around 1,515.
Although police high-ups said the move was a "regular administrative process", the sources said the "wholesale reshuffle" in Cox's Bazar was actually part of a "correction campaign" that followed the killing of retired army major Sinha Md Rashed Khan in the district.
Several police officials are facing trial for their involvement in the killing.
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BIG SHAKE-UP

430 inspector, SI, ASI level officers, 1,057 nayeks and constables leave Cox's Bazar

US ELECTION 2020 Race much tighter in key swing states

Survey shows Biden may win popular votes, but Trump may win Electoral College

AGENCIES

The US presidential race is much closer than national surveys suggest, according to Reuters/Ipsos opinion polls in battleground states that show Democrat Joe Biden with only a slim lead over President Donald Trump in three highly competitive states and in a dead heat in three others.
The survey came as US race enters the final stretch with Trump and Biden jostling to lure voters to cast their votes in the Nov. 3 election to decide the future of the country amid fears of foreign meddling and economic meltdown from coronavirus pandemic.
The online state polls, conducted earlier in September and released this week, found Biden and Trump tied
SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Protect our planet

PM at UN roundtable presents 5-point proposal to fight climate change; urges robust international collaboration

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for a robust international collaboration as she unveiled a five-point proposal to protect the planet from the adverse impact of climate change.
"To protect the planet and ourselves [from the adverse impact of climate change], I would suggest that political leadership must encourage robust international collaboration," she said in her first proposal.
The premier made the proposal through a video message at a high-level virtual roundtable on climate action on the sidelines of the 75th United Nations General Assembly in New York on Thursday.
In her second proposal, Hasina said the global temperature increase must be limited up to 1.5 degrees Celsius and all Paris provisions must be implemented.
Thirdly, she said, the promised funds have to be made available to the vulnerable countries.
In the fourth proposal, the PM said polluting countries must increase their NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) through necessary mitigation measures.
"Recognise that rehabilitation of the climate refugees is a global responsibility," she said in the fifth proposal.
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None will be left behind

Says Saudia country manager about 50,000 migrant workers waiting to fly to KSA

RASHIDUL HASAN

All the stranded Bangladeshi expatriate workers will be able to return to their workplaces in Saudi Arabia and they need not to be worried about it, said Tarik A Alowaidi, country manager at Saudi Arabian Airlines.
In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star at his office at the city's Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel yesterday, he requested all the 50,000 migrant workers waiting to return to the Gulf country to have patience.
"Of course, all the Bangladeshi workers waiting to return to their workplaces in the Kingdom will be able to reach there," he said, adding that they were trying their best to find a quick solution.
He said Bangladeshi expatriate workers who are holding valid visas, exit and re-entry visas and work visas will be allowed to enter the Kingdom where they will have to undergo a PCR test within 48 hours of their arrival.
"If the requirements are met, there should be no problem and we have already operated a few flights carrying passengers back to the Kingdom and those were successful."
The Saudi embassy has recently announced that they will start the process of extending visas and iqama (work permit) of Bangladeshi expatriate workers from September 27.
"You know the number of expatriate Bangladesh
SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Tarik A Alowaidi



GOLDEN TICKET... A man proudly displays a plane ticket to Saudi Arabia moments after buying it from a booth at Hotel Sonargaon in the capital yesterday. There has been a scramble for tickets to the Gulf country after it decided to extend its work and resident permits for Bangladeshi expatriates by 24 days. The permits were previously supposed to expire on September 30.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

21 more die, 1,383 infected in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-one people were reported dead from Covid-19 yesterday, the 201st day since the first cases were reported in the country.
The death toll now stands at 5,093 which is 1.43 percent of all confirmed cases, according to a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services.
In the 24 hours until 8:30am yesterday, 1,383 people tested positive for the coronavirus.
The positivity rate was 11.09 percent against 12,473 tests in 103 Covid-19 testing laboratories in the 24 hours.
The overall positivity rate stands at 18.90 percent as the total number of confirmed cases is 3,56,767.
During the last three weeks, Bangladesh's position has remained 15th in the list of worst affected countries in the world in terms of the number of confirmed cases, according to the worldometers.info.
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