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SHAH CEMENT

Democrats blast Trump's SC pick

Biden calls on Senate to block Barrett's nomination

AGENCIES

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and others in his party on Saturday blasted President Donald Trump's choice of conservative judge Amy Coney Barrett for the Supreme Court, focusing in particular on the threat they said she would pose to healthcare for millions of Americans.



AC Barrett

Trump's announcement during a flag-festooned White House Rose Garden ceremony - with Barrett, 48, by his side and her seven children on hand - sets off a scramble by Senate Republicans to confirm her as the president has requested before Election Day in 5-1/2 weeks, when he will be seeking a second term in office.

If confirmed by the Senate to replace liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died at age 87 on Sept. 18, Barrett would become the fifth woman ever to serve on the court and would push its conservative majority to a commanding 6-3.

Like Trump's two other appointees, Neil Gorsuch in 2017 and Brett Kavanaugh in 2018, Barrett is young enough that she could serve for decades in the lifetime job, leaving a lasting conservative imprint. Barrett is the

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Mere metres away from an approaching train, two pedestrians crossing the railway track without any apparent concern for their own safety. Such practices are common and can lead to mishaps that could prove fatal. This photo was taken on Saturday in Malibagh.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

4 of a family killed as their mud house collapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Four members of a family died in Dinaipur's Parbatipur upazila as their mud house collapsed on them early yesterday.

The dead are Mohammad Swapan, 35, a rickshaw puller by profession, his wife Sarjana Begum, 27, their two children Abul Hossain, 7, and Hasibur Rahman, 5.

The victims' neighbour Motiur Rahman said it was raining cats and dogs at the night the mud house collapsed.

Around 5:30am a woman started screaming seeing the collapsed house. Locals then rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies around 8:00am.

None could tell at what time the house collapsed as they heard no sound due to heavy rain.

During a visit to the spot, this correspondent found out that there were two rooms at the house. All four members of the family were

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O, A-LEVEL EXAMS Students go to HC for deferral

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed yesterday with the High Court seeking its order on the government to postpone the upcoming O-and A-level examinations while students continue protests demanding the cancellation of exams amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Tamanna Tabassum, an A-level student, submitted the petition to the HC saying that the students could not take preparations for the examinations as their classes were closed for the last six months due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Besides, many students of O-and A-levels did not receive admit cards for attending the exams, the petition added.

Petitioner's counsel Moniruzzaman Lincon told The Daily Star that his client in the writ petition

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Remains of Jurassic sea predator found in Chile desert



REUTERS

Scientists have unearthed the remains of Jurassic sea predators resembling killer whales in the world's driest desert in Chile.

Pliosaurs were reptiles from about 160 million years ago with a more powerful bite than Tyrannosaurus rex, according to University of Chile researchers. The fossils are the second oldest record of this species in the Southern Hemisphere.

Chile's vast Atacama desert, once largely submerged beneath the Pacific Ocean, is now a moonscape of sand and stone with parts untouched by rain for years.

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Ramna Park reopens after six months

To remain open for 5hrs every day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday informed the High Court that it has reopened the Ramna Park in Dhaka, clearing the way for the people to walk and exercise in the park after more than six months.

The park will remain open from 6:00am to 10:00am and from 4:00pm to 5:00pm every day, Deputy Attorney General Noor-Ul Sadik told the HC during hearing a writ petition filed seeking its order for reopening Ramna Park.

After the hearing, the HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam dropped the writ petition from its hearing list, DAG Noor told The Daily Star yesterday.

On September 8, Supreme Court lawyer Eunus Ali Akond filed the

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Aid for war-torn economy sought

September 28, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEM

BANGABANDHU REVIEWS TCB'S ACTIVITIES Bangladesh Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today holds a meeting of senior officials of Trading Corporation Bangladesh (TCB) at the Gono Bhaban and reviews the activities of the government body. They discuss the problems faced by TCB in importing various essentials goods.

POOR NATIONS NEED SOFT LOAN: TAJUDDIN

The new nation of Bangladesh makes its debut at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank today with a plea for aid to build its war-torn economy and warning that the widening gap between rich and poor nations is a threat to world peace and stability.

Tajuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh minister for finance and planning, accuses richer nations of protectionism, of falling short in assistance goals, and of giving aid with conditions. Foreign aid continues to be tied to projects. Some countries lend on such hard terms and for such short periods that their loans are virtually indistinguishable from suppliers' credit granted by individual exporters, he adds. Quoting the recent floating of the pound sterling, he further says that rich nations' balance of payments problems are seriously affecting the future of poor nations.

Tajuddin says in the meeting that Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest nations, is seeking aid to build a socialist economy within

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Covid death rate goes up by 2.37pc

Shows DGHS data; 32 die, 1,275 test positive in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of deaths from Covid-19 has increased by 2.37 percent than that of the previous week, said a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

But the detection of coronavirus cases decreased by 7.30 percent, while the number of tests also dropped by 5.42 percent till yesterday.

The recovery rate has also gone down by 10.7 percent.

Thirty-two more people died from coronavirus infection in 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday, according to the press release.

With this, the total number of deaths rose to 5,161, while the death rate stood at 1.44 percent.

Another 1,275 cases were recorded in the meantime, taking the number of people infected to 3,59,148, the release added.

Against a number of 10,685 tests, the positivity rate was 11.93 percent -- nearly two percent up from the previous day's 10.27 percent.

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Jaswant Singh no more

HINDUSTAN TIMES ONLINE

Jaswant Singh, former Indian Union minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee cabinet who held the crucial portfolios of external affairs, defence and finance, died after a prolonged illness yesterday morning. He was 82.

Having joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as one of its early founding members after serving in

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A traffic police wades through waist-deep water on a road in Mulatol area of Rangpur city yesterday. Related story on page 3.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

Flood situation worsens in two northern dists

STAR REPORT

People continued to suffer as flood situation in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram worsened yesterday following incessant rainfall and the onrush of water from the upstream.

Major rivers of the upper Meghna basin in the country's north-eastern region were showing a rising trend and it may remain steady in the next 24 hours, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said in a bulletin around 9:00am.

"The Ganges river is also showing a rising trend, which may continue for the next 72 hours," it said.

The Brahmaputra river was in a steady state, but its water level may rise in the next 24 hours, while the Jamuna river was showing a downward trend which may remain steady in the next 24 hours.

At least seven rivers across the country were flowing above the danger level, the FFWC bulletin added.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Meteorological Department yesterday forecast that light to moderate rainfall and thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind were likely to occur at most places over Rangpur division today.

Light to moderate rain may occur at many places over Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions as well as at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal and Chattogram divisions today, according to the forecast issued around 6:00pm yesterday.

Besides, moderately heavy to very heavy rainfall may occur at isolated places over the northern part of the country today, it added.

In Lalmonirhat and Kurigram, flood situation

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 28

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-15 6-00 7-30
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-30 6-05 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION