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EIGHT YEARS OF RAMU ATTACK

Buddhists still wait for justice

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Justice is yet to be delivered for the mindless communal attacks on the Buddhist community in Cox's Bazar's Ramu upazila in 2012 although three separate probe reports identifying the attackers and inaction of nonchalant local officials were placed before the High Court seven years ago.

The probes were done in line with HC orders, following separate writ petitions filed as public interest litigations by two Supreme Court lawyers after a mob destroyed 12 pagodas and more than 50 houses in Ramu on this day in 2012.

The HC is still yet to hold the final hearing on the writ petitions and deliver a verdict on them due to reconstitution of its bench and apparent lack of willingness of the lawyers concerned in moving the petitions before the court.

On October 2 and 3, 2012, SC lawyers Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua and Advocate Eunus Ali Akond separately filed the two writ petitions, seeking actions against the perpetrators responsible for the attacks and the negligence of local administration in preventing the incidents.

The probe reports were submitted to the HC bench, led by Justice Mirza Hussain Haider, who is now a judge of the Appellate Division of the SC. Before the elevation of the judge, the jurisdiction of the bench was reconstituted by the chief justice.

One of the probe reports submitted to the HC on May 16, 2013 blamed the failure of the local administration and

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A child rowing a raft made of banana trees to wander around the neighbourhood as floodwater has submerged their village for the fourth time this year. The photo was taken in Char Falimari village in Lalmonirhat's Sadar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

4th phase flood likely to ruin crops

STAR REPORT

The fourth phase of flood in the northern region may damage large quantities of paddy and winter vegetables, feared farmers and experts.

As a result, the market of such seasonal agricultural goods may remain unstable and the price may shoot up, they added.

The officials at the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in different flood-hit districts were encouraging farmers to re-cultivate vegetables after floodwater recedes.

This year, the first phase of flood hit the region in June due to heavy downpour and onrush of water from upstream.

Subsequently, the second and third phases hit the area in the following month. Finally, the region witnessed the fourth phase last week.

The water level on the Brahmaputra, the Jamuna and the Padma rivers were on the rise that might continue for the next 48

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RAPE IN MC COLLEGE

They looked away then, now they're to probe 6 accused arrested, 3 put on 5-day remand

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

The Murari Chand College and hostel authorities who apparently turned a blind eye as a group of BCL activists occupied many rooms are now probing how those very activists could rape a woman inside the hostel.

College students have alleged that one of the three-member probe body, a hostel superintendent, is a silent supporter of the BCL activists.

On the night of September 25, a group of BCL activists -- some of them current and former students of the college -- raped a woman after tying up her husband.

Later that night, the victim's husband filed a case accusing six named and two-three unnamed. So far, police have detained six persons, including four named in the case.

The college authorities called an emergency meeting the following afternoon where they formed the probe body.

Prof Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, head

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

19 MCAs expelled



Scientists of BCSIR present to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman the samples of juttun products at the Gono Bhaban on September 29, 1972.

September 29, 1972
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

JUTTON FOR LOW-COST CLOTH

A wide variety of products made of juttun, a fabric produced from 70 percent jute and 30 percent cotton, is shown to Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Gono Bhaban today. The prime minister's first reaction to juttun is, "We are successful now."

He immediately asks CM Murshid, chairman of the Cotton Mills Corporation to sit with the officials of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) to work out the details for mass production of juttun. If the juttun is found feasible it would to a great extent meet the demands of domestic

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32 more die from Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-two people were reported dead from Covid-19 in the country in 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With this, the total number of deaths rose to 5,193 while the death rate stood at 1.44 percent.

Another 1,407 people were tested positive in the same 24 hours which raised the total number of confirmed cases to 3,60,555, added the release.

Against a total of 11,922 tests in those 24 hours, the positivity rate was 11.80 percent and the overall positivity rate stood at 18.77 percent.

At least 1,582 Covid-19 patients recovered in the same 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 2,72,073, while the overall recovery rate stood at 75.46 percent.

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People with pets suffered less during lockdown



MAIL ONLINE

The coronavirus lockdown was tough on many people, but having a pet helped lower stress levels, according to new research.

A survey conducted on 6,000 Britons by UK researchers found owning an animal companion boosted mental health and reduced feelings of loneliness.

More than nine in ten participants said their pet helped them cope emotionally with the lockdown. Nearly all (96 per cent) said it helped keep them fit and active.

Researchers recorded how people coped with

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Dhaka-18, Siraniganj-1 by-polls on Nov 12

UNB, Dhaka

By-elections to Dhaka-18 and Siraniganj-1 parliamentary seats will be held on November 12, the Election Commission announced yesterday.

As per the schedule, the deadline for nomination submission is October 13.

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 29

| | 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

2 girls raped in Noakhali, Chattogram

STAR REPORT

Three people, including a woman, were arrested yesterday over the rape of two girls in Noakhali and Chattogram city, police said.

In Noakhali, a 10-year-old girl was raped in Companiganj upazila on Sunday night.

Police arrested accused Joynal Abedin, 25, who is the husband of the victim's cousin.

Joynal raped the minor girl at her house in Charbalua village, a remote area in Char Elahi union, when her parents went to the upazila town for treatment of her ailing younger sister, Arifur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Companiganj Police Station, said quoting locals.

Locals rescued the girl and took her to a clinic.

On information, a team from Charbalua police outpost conducted a drive and arrested the accused, the OC said.

Preparation was underway to file a case over

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A quack pouring water on a man's head as part of his treatment for jaundice yesterday. The method is devoid of any scientific or medical evidence. A number of these so-called healers prey mostly on people of low-income group at the capital's Dhapur.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Covid-19 death toll passes 1m

Indian cases cross 6m mark as world reels from 'a crisis like no other'

AFP, Paris

More than one million people have died from coronavirus marking a grim milestone in the spread of the disease that has ravaged the world economy, inflamed diplomatic tensions and upended lives from Indian slums to New York City.

In the nine months since the virus was first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan, schools, businesses, live entertainment, and international travel have been upended by strict stay-at-home measures designed to curb the contagion.

Drastic controls that put half of humanity -- more than four billion people -- under some form of lockdown by April at first slowed the spread, but since restrictions were eased, infections have soared again.

By 1100 GMT yesterday, the disease had claimed 1,002,036 victims from 33,162,930 recorded infections, according to an AFP tally collected from official sources by journalists stationed around the world, and compiled by a dedicated team of data specialists.

The United States has the highest death toll with more than 200,000 fatalities, followed by Brazil, India, Mexico and Britain.

Behind the figures lie millions of lives shattered by an illness that still holds many mysteries and which cannot yet be effectively treated or prevented, despite a global race to develop drugs and a vaccine.

For Italian truck driver Carlo Chiodi, the global mortality statistics include both his parents, whom he lost within days of each other.

"I saw my father walking out of the house, getting into

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