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SHAH CEMENT

US PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

Trump, Biden head into first debate

AFP, Cleveland

There'll be no handshake, but venom to spare when President Donald Trump and challenger Joe Biden meet in Cleveland on Tuesday night (US time) for the first of three televised debates that could shake up an already volatile race for the White House.

Covid-19 restrictions will give the debate moderated by Fox News star Chris Wallace a streamlined look with a smaller audience. Naturally, there won't be the once standard -- even if occasionally forced -- show of goodwill in shaking hands as the rivals go on stage.

What the 90-minute clash will have is a chance for Americans finally to see Trump, 74, and Biden, 77, go head to head.

With Trump claiming Biden is virtually brain dead -- "Biden doesn't know he's alive" -- and Biden branding the president "a toxic presence," it won't be for the faint hearted.

Significantly behind in the polls, Trump is in fighting mode, embarking on an endurance-testing schedule of rallies in key battlegrounds several times a week.

Biden, though, comes hoping to press his advantage.

And he arrives aided by The New York Times' publication of a report purporting to reveal the contents of Trump's deeply secret tax returns -- finding that the self-proclaimed billionaire and champion of the working class avoids paying almost all federal income taxes.

Trump, who fancies his skills as a verbal pugilist, is expected to hit hard and low.

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Villagers watch as water of the Karatoa river rushes through a breach in the embankment in Tongadaha of Rangpur's Pirganj upazila yesterday. The embankment gave away the night before, damaging crops on over 1,000 hectares and flooding 13 villages.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Kuwait emir Sheikh Sabah passes away

AFP, Kuwait City

Kuwait's emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, regarded as the architect of the nation's modern foreign policy, died yesterday, according to the royal court. He was 91.

"With great sadness and sorrow, we mourn... the death of Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait," said Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, the minister in charge of royal affairs, in a televised statement.

State television had cut its regular programming and switched to a broadcast of Koranic recital before the announcement.

The emir had been receiving hospital treatment

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'Police tortured, killed my son'

Claims father after 25-yr-old died in police custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A 25-year-old man was allegedly tortured to death in custody of the Police Bureau of Investigation on Monday in Bagerhat.

PBI officers refuted the allegation, saying that Raja Fakir, prime accused in a murder case, was a drug addict and fell ill soon after he was arrested on Sunday night and died.

Resident Medical Officer Mirajul Karim of Bagerhat Sadar Hospital refused to say whether there was any bruise mark on Raja's body.

"It is confidential information, we will give it to the court," he told The Daily Star. It is quite common for doctors to talk to reporters about their primary findings after autopsies.

Raja's grieving father Babu Fakir said his son was arrested by PBI Sub-inspector Abu Saeed in Patuakhali on Sunday night and brought to Bagerhat.

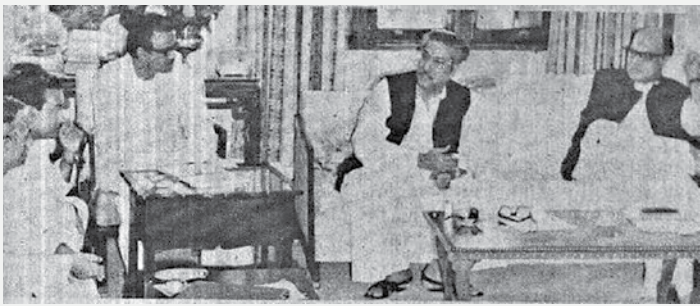
"On the way, the police physically tortured him... They tortured Raja even after they brought him to Bagerhat... The police tortured and killed my son. I want justice," Babu told reporters.

Bagerhat Civil Surgeon KM Humayun Kabir told The Daily Star that doctors at

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Mobilise resources for self-sufficiency in food



Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at a high-level conference on agriculture at the Gono Bhavan on September 30, 1972.

September 30, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU REVIEWS AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today presides over a high-level conference at the Gono Bhavan which reviews the entire programme for agriculture during 1972-73. The prime minister issues directives that all bottlenecks in procurements and distribution of agricultural inputs must be removed so that the agriculture programme could be fully implemented. He asks all

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Breaches in embankments flooding farms

STAR REPORT

Many villages and croplands on a vast tract of land have gone under water as flood protection dams breached in some districts across the country.

Officials of Water Development Board yesterday said they were working hard to protect the dams. Locals also joined hands with each other to protect embankments and save their houses and croplands from being hit by flooding.

In Lalmonirhat, a portion of a flood control dam was damaged due to erosion of the Teesta river yesterday morning. The dam is in Gobordhan area of Aditmari upazila.

An about 40 metre part of the 250-metre dam has already caved in and some other parts of it are on the verge of being breached, said locals.

As a result, over 1,000 homes and crops on a vast tract of land are at risk of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Hydrogen-powered plane completes 1st flight



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A full-size, commercially-available passenger aeroplane powered by hydrogen has completed a successful flight over the skies of Bedfordshire, in a world first.

The six-seater aircraft did a taxi, takeoff, full pattern circuit and landing at an airfield in Cranfield, England.

ZeroAvia, the company behind the plane, said it was the first ever hydrogen fuel cell-powered flight using a commercial-grade aircraft.

The brand's retrofitted Piper M-class is now the largest hydrogen-powered aircraft in the world.

After a successful first trial, ZeroAvia will move on to the next and final stage of its six-seat development program: a 250-mile zero emissions

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Magura court makes historic precedent

Delivers verdict without naming victim

UNB, Magura

In a first for Bangladesh, Magura Chief Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Ziaur Rahman gave a fictitious name -- "Kalpa" -- to a college student seeking justice and delivered the verdict on Monday without mentioning her real name.

This is the first time in the history of the country's judicial system that a judgment was given using a pseudonym of the plaintiff. Lawyers hailed the verdict as historic.

In this case, convict Jubayer Hossain has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment and fined Tk 100,000.

The victim will get the amount of fine, the court said.

Court sources said "Kalpa" had an affair with Jubayer who took some personal photos of her on his mobile phone.

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RIFAT MURDER CASE

Court set to deliver verdict today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The verdict of Rifat Sharif murder case is set to be delivered today.

District and Sessions Judge of Barguna Md Asaduzzaman will read out the judgment against 10 accused, including the victim's wife Ayesha Siddika Minni, at 10:00am, said Bhuvan Chandra Haldar, public prosecutor of the district.

On September 16, the judge fixed today for delivering the verdict after closing arguments of the prosecution and defence.

Although 24 accused have been charge-sheeted

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 30

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Construction workers getting materials from a roof-top crane at a building in the capital's Azimpur area yesterday. They have no safety gear on and the opening has no guard rails. Three workers died after falling from a 10-storey under-construction building in Dhanmondi-32 area on Monday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MC COLLEGE RAPE

All accused arrested

3-member probe body formed by secondary and higher edu dept

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Law enforcers arrested eight men accused in a case filed over Friday night's rape at the hostel of Murari Chand College in Sylhet.

Rab arrested Tarekul Islam Tarek in Sunamganj's Derai upazila around 6:30pm yesterday, said ASP Obain Rakhaine of Rab-9.

Jyotirmoy Sarker, additional deputy commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said, "All the named accused have been arrested. But after interrogating them, if we find any more people involved, we will arrest them too."

The five other named accused are Saifur Rahman, Shah Md Mahbubur Rahman Roni, Arjun Lasker, Robiul Islam and Mahfuzur Rahman Masum.

Earlier yesterday, Roni, Rajon and Ainuddin were taken to Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Court-2 where judge Saifur Rahman granted a five-day remand for each, said Assistant Public Prosecutor Khokhon Kumar Dutta.

On Monday, Saifur, Arjun and Robiul were also placed on 5-day remands by the court.

Following the rape on September 25, the husband of the victim filed the case with Shah Poran Police Station the same night, mentioning the names of six people and 2-3 unnamed men.

Moreover, finding direct connection with the case, another two--Rajon Miah and Md Ainuddin--were arrested.

To investigate the incident, a three-member probe

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