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US ELECTION 2020 Right-wing militias must 'stand down'

Trump takes a U-turn after criticism; Biden blasts him as 'embarrassment'

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump scrambled to quell an uproar over his failure to explicitly denounce white supremacist groups during his debate debacle with Joe Biden, who branded his election rival a "national embarrassment."

The bitter adversaries returned to the campaign trail Wednesday, one day after their off-the-rails showdown in Cleveland made headlines less for the substance than for its unrestrained chaos.

The toxic shout fest -- with Trump constantly interrupting and Biden launching personal attacks -- even prompted the overseeing Commission on Presidential Debates to announce it would be imposing new measures to help moderators "maintain order" at the upcoming two debates.

After his assertive performance Biden launched a whistle-stop train tour Wednesday through battleground states Ohio and Pennsylvania where he hammered away at Trump.

"The president of the United States conducted himself the way he did -- I think it was a national embarrassment," Biden said in Alliance, Ohio.

He fiercely attacked Trump's failure to clearly denounce white supremacist groups or the far-right Proud Boys, instead giving a shout-

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Sky lanterns being released in front of Chattogram city's Nandonkanon Buddha Bihar on the occasion of Probarona Purnima, the second largest festival of the Buddhist community, yesterday. Even though the event was limited to an hour in the evening due to the pandemic, there was a huge gathering. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Release 370 returnees immediately

Amnesty Int'l calls upon govt

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International has called for the Bangladesh authorities to immediately release at least 370 migrant workers, who were arbitrarily detained between July and September following their return to the country.

In a statement yesterday, it said in the fourth part of a series of mass arrests for alleged criminal activity abroad, 32 workers were detained in Dhaka on September 28 for "tarnishing the image of the country", due to their alleged imprisonment in Syria from where they had been deported.

The 32 workers were initially jailed in Syria while trying to reach Italy and other European countries. They returned to Bangladesh on September 13 and were placed in quarantine for two weeks prior to their arrest, after the Syrian government commuted their jail terms.

They were jailed under section 54 of SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Tk 5.64cr gold bars seized at Ctg airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Officials of Chattogram Custom House recovered 82 gold bars weighing 9.5 kilograms worth around Tk 5.64 crore in Shah Amanat International Airport yesterday morning.

The officials detained Enamul Haque, of Chattogram's Chakaria upazila, in this connection, said Rokhsana Khatun, deputy commissioner of Chattogram Custom House.

On information, custom officials searched the body of Enamul who came from Dubai by a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines that landed at the airport at 7:30am.

Rokhsana Khatun said the gold bars were tied with tapes inside his shirt.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

India-Bangladesh cooperation in education

October 2, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJAN

EXPEDITE PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCE

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a directive issued today at various government departments instructs them to make expeditious payment of allowances to the families and dependents of Bangalee officials stranded in Pakistan as per his mid-July order.

Bangabandhu also asks families and dependents who had applied to various departments for their allowance but did not get it yet to apply directly to the prime minister's secretariat quoting the date and number of their original applications. This directive is issued by the prime minister following receipt of complaints that many applicants are not getting their allowances. It may be recalled here that Bangabandhu in mid-July this year, before going

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Let UN visit Bhashan Char before moving Rohingyas there

HRW urges govt

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch has urged the Bangladesh government to allow a UN visit to Bhashan Char before any Rohingya relocation.

In a statement yesterday, it said the government has reneged on repeated promises to await clearance from UN agencies and independent technical experts on emergency preparedness, habitability, and safety of the island before relocating the Rohingyas there.

"Any decision to relocate Rohingyas to Bhashan Char, after the completion of technical assessments, needs to be voluntary and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Wait for flights to KSA keeps getting longer

55,000 returnees stuck since Covid halted air travel

RASHIDUL HASAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

At least 55,000 Bangladeshi expatriates have been waiting to board Saudi Arabia-bound flights with return tickets in hand since the Covid-19 pandemic halted their return to the Kingdom.

Of the passengers, about 25,000 have return tickets of Biman Bangladesh Airlines and about 30,000 have return tickets of Saudi Arabian Airlines, officials said

yesterday.

Biman is the state-owned and national flag carrier of Bangladesh, while Saudi Arabian Airlines is the Kingdom's state-owned and national flag carrier.

There were several other foreign airlines which, before the pandemic, would carry significant number of passengers from Dhaka to different destinations in the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 2

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-30 4-15 5-53 7-30
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-56 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A Chestnut-tailed Starling, also known as Kath Shalik, is sitting on a tree branch at the capital's Paltan Maidan. The bird, which is seen across the country, eat fruits, nectar, and insects.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

TIB report on JS not based on reliable info

Says Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the report published by Transparency International, Bangladesh on parliamentary activities was not based on reliable information.

He said this in response to a question after the formal inauguration of upward extension of Setu Bhaban in the capital in the morning.

The TIB in its report observed that the absolute majority of the ruling Awami League ensured through parliamentary elections intensified their exercise of monopoly power in parliamentary activities.

The scope for discussion in parliament SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

BREACHING OF BREXIT DEAL

EU launches legal action against UK

AFP, Brussels

The European Union yesterday launched legal proceedings in response to the British government's attempt to overturn parts of the Brexit withdrawal agreement.

The infringement procedure, which could come before European courts, has not derailed post-Brexit trade talks, but reflects mounting tension in Brussels as time runs short for a deal.

"This morning, the Commission has decided to send a letter of formal notice to the UK Government. This is the first step in an infringement procedure," EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said.

"The letter invites the UK Government to send its observations within a month," said von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission.

On Tuesday, British MPs backed a bill to regulate the UK's internal market from January 1, when Britain completes its post-Brexit transition period and leaves the EU single market and customs union.

The proposed text, by London's own admission, overwrites parts of the withdrawal treaty that Prime Minister Boris Johnson signed with EU leaders last year, a breach of international law.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1