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US ELECTION 2020

Trump rejects virtual debate

His pandemic record in spotlight as Harris, Pence trade blows at vice presidential debate

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday said he would not participate in a virtual debate, throwing into doubt the second presidential debate between Trump and his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, scheduled for Oct 15.

His words came moments after the commission that oversees the debates said the event would be conducted from remote locations in the wake of his Covid-19 diagnosis. The Biden campaign welcomed the move.

"That's not acceptable to us," Trump said on a phone call with Fox Business, adding he thought the virtual format would allow the moderator to cut him off.

The news came a day after the sole vice presidential debate between Vice President Mike Pence and Biden's running mate, Senator Kamala Harris, who clashed repeatedly over the Trump administration's response to the pandemic, which has killed more than 210,000 Americans.

Harris has called Donald Trump's Covid-19 response a historic failure that disqualified him from a second term, in a pointed but mostly civil debate with Mike Pence who sought to portray her as extreme.

With Trump's weekend hospitalisation for Covid-19 throwing a new importance on the role of the vice president, Pence and Harris spoke separated by plexiglass

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Criminals demolished a monument built in memory of slain Buet student Abrar Fahad hours after it was built. Inset, Buet students constructing the monument at the capital's Palashi intersection on Wednesday to mark his first death anniversary.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN/PRABIR DAS

Amin Uddin new attorney general

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AM Amin Uddin, a senior lawyer at the Supreme Court and president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, has been appointed the new attorney general of Bangladesh.

"President Md Abdul Hamid has appointed Advocate AM Amin Uddin as the new attorney general of Bangladesh. He will fill up the vacancy created after the death of longest-serving attorney general Mahbubey Alam," Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star yesterday.

The post of attorney general fell vacant after Attorney General Mahbubey Alam passed away on September 27.

AM Amin Uddin, who has been appointed as the 14th top law officer of the state, told The Daily Star yesterday that he will carry forward the work of the government and late

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Anti-rape protests roll on for 4 days

BCL men attack demos in Ctg, Moulvibazar

STAR REPORT

As anti-rape protests raged across the country for the fourth consecutive day yesterday, BCL men have attacked demonstrators in Moulvibazar and Chattogram.

Spurred on by the recent gang rape in Noakhali, students, their guardians and teachers of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College yesterday took position in front of its campus on Baily Road around 12:00pm and staged demonstrations demanding the toughest of punishments to the rapists. They also expressed discontent regarding the government's failure to protect women.

"The guilt is only yours... the rapist is you," the protesters chanted.

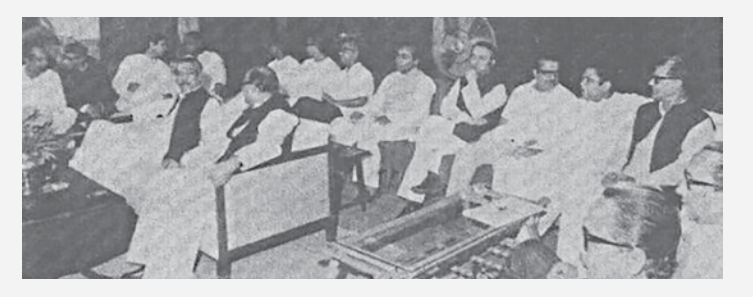
They said nobody should be a victim of rape. Even boys in madrasas go through this. No children should face rape and sexual assault, the protesters demanded.

In front of Bashundhara Residential Area gate, protestors held a rally around 11:30am, wearing black t-shirts, holding placards demanding justice for rape

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Constitution in shortest possible time



Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman presiding over the opening session of the Awami League Parliamentary Party at the auditorium of the Engineers' Institute on October 9, 1972.

October 9, 1972
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU ADDRESSES AWAMI LEAGUE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY CONFERENCE

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman maintains today that the Gono Parishad (Constituent Assembly) in its forthcoming session would enact a constitution which would meet the expectations of the people and reflect their hopes and aspirations. Addressing the opening session of the two-day meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

VESTED PROPERTY Court frames charges against MP over bid to plunder it

OUR CORRESPONDENT, PARNA

A court framed charges against Sirajganj-6 lawmaker Hasibur Rahman Swapon and a title deed writer in connection with an attempt to take over vested property by falsifying documents.

Senior judicial magistrate Abu Shahin Khan Konok of Shahzadpur framed the charges Wednesday afternoon.

Senior sub judge Tofazzal Hossain filed the case against the lawmaker and deed writer Abdur Rashid for attempting to turn a piece of vested property into the lawmaker's private property using false documents and forging signatures on July, 25, 2018.

The lawmaker got bail in the case and the deed writer was initially sent to jail but later received bail.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Scientists develop robot squid for deep sea exploration



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A new squid-like robot can swim on its own and take pictures.

The machine was built to explore the sea by researchers at the University of California San Diego.

The robot propels itself by shooting jets of water behind it; it takes in a large amount of water into its body, and then compresses itself to blast it out behind it.

The machine's body is made of acrylic polymer, supported by 3D-printed and laser-cut parts; its soft body means that it will not injure fish or coral, and can also maneuver more easily than larger, more rigid robots.

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ROHINGYAS IN RAKHINE 1.3 lakh of them living in inhuman conditions

SAYS HRW

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

About 130,000 Rohingyas in the camps of Myanmar's Rakhine state are living under squalid and abusive conditions, which are like "open prisons", said Human Rights Watch (HRW) yesterday.

"The Myanmar government has interned 130,000 Rohingyas in inhuman conditions for eight years, cut off from their homes, land, and livelihoods, with little hope that things will improve," said Shayna Bauchner in a new HRW report published yesterday.

An estimated one million Rohingyas lived in Myanmar, but a brutal military crackdown in 2017 forced some 750,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh.

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NOAKHALI GANG RAPE 2 accused placed on remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A Noakhali court yesterday placed two accused on remand in cases filed over the torture and gang rape of a woman.

Judge of Noakhali Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court Mashfiqul Haque passed the order, said Begumganj Police Station Inspector Mostak Ahmed, also the investigation officer of the case.

Abul Kalam, 22, was placed on a six-day remand and another accused Main Uddin Shahed, 51, on a two-day remand, he said.

Harunur Rashid Chowdhury, officer-in-

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A scaly-breasted munia sitting on a bamboo branch in Gandagram village of Bogura's Shajahanpur upazila. The bird, which is common all over the country, eats grass seeds and small insects. Its name is based on the distinct scale-like feather markings on the breast and belly.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

COVID PANDEMIC IN EUROPE Surging cases force lockdowns

AGENCIES

New cases have been spiralling across Europe and the governments are preparing to renew some lockdown measures as German health experts warned yesterday that the coronavirus could "spread uncontrollably" in the country.

Across the world, 36.2 million cases of the coronavirus have been officially diagnosed since it first emerged in China late last year, according to an AFP tally based on official sources yesterday.

Of those 1,057,084 have died.

The United States has the highest death toll, with 211,844, followed by Brazil with 148,228, India 105,526, Mexico 82,726 and Britain 42,515.

In Belgium, Brussels' crowded bars and cafes were shut for a month, a return to the stricter protocols imposed at the height of the epidemic in March and April.

And in France, officials were to apply tighter restrictions in several major cities, two days after a maximum alert protocol went into force in Paris.

Austria yesterday recorded its highest ever one-day total of infections despite measures taken in recent weeks to try to bring the pandemic under control.

Countries including Germany have warned against travel to parts of Austria, putting the tourism industry under pressure as the ski season approaches.

Poles will have to wear face masks in all public spaces from Saturday, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said yesterday, after cases hit a new record daily high of 4,280.

"The second wave has reached us and we have to face it in a decisive way," Morawiecki told reporters, explaining that the entire EU country of 38 million would now be considered a "yellow zone".

PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 9

Fajr	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