

PBI officials

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officer of a case filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, was with the PBI team.
The PBI officials stayed at house for about 20 minutes and visited the surrounding areas. They did not talk to anyone at that time.

Policemen have been deployed at the victim's house since she was rescued from Maijdi town on the night of October 4.

The woman's elderly father, sister and her seventh-grader son are staying at the house.

Alamgir Hossain, superintendent of Noakhali police, said two cases filed in this connection -- one under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act and the other under the Pornography Control Act -- were handed over to the PBI on Thursday night following the police headquarters' instructions.

The rape case lodged over the incident would also be handed over to the PBI soon, the SP said.

AL organising

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that the people would welcome the constitution which would meet their expectation and reflect their hopes and aspirations. The ALOC reiterate its demand to dissolve the Gono Parishad immediately after the passage of the constitution.

BANGLADESH FOOTBALL TEAM WILL VISIT INDIA: MUJIB
Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman says today that Bangladesh football team would visit India to play exhibition matches as part of an exchange programme between the two countries. Talking informally to the members of East Bengal Club of Kolkata who called on him, the prime minister expresses his happiness over the week-long visit of the team to Bangladesh. While expressing gratitude to the people of India particularly those of West Bengal and the neighbouring states of Bangladesh for the help given to the people of Bangladesh during the liberation struggle, Bangabandhu also narrates how the Pakistani hordes persecuted the Bangalee sportsmen. He expresses grief over the killing of Moshaque Ahmed, a popular sports enthusiast in Dhaka by the Pakistan army.
SUBIMAL CALLS ON MUJIB
Subimal Dutta, Indian high commissioner in Bangladesh, calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman this evening at the Gono Bhaban and discusses various bilateral issues with him.
SOURCES: October 12, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Three juvenile

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by Jamir Uddin Ahmed, company commander of Rab-4 (CPC-2), conducted a drive in Savar Anandapur City area around 1:00am yesterday, rescued Hridoy and arrested the three.

Contacted, Jamir Uddin said they came to know that the arrestees were members of a juvenile gang and they were involved in criminal activities.

A case was filed with Savar Model Police Station in this regard and the three were handed to the police station, he told The Daily Star.

Man arrested

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disembarked to buy food and missed the train, said the OC, quoting the victim.

An auto rickshaw driver Rocky Islam took the girl, telling her that he would take her to Kaunia, but took her instead to a secluded place where he and three others who joined him gang-raped her.

Locals rescued the girl the next morning, police added, and with the help of some journalists from the local Press Club, she went to the police station and filed a rape case.

The victim filed a rape case with police accusing four named and several unnamed persons on Friday night, said Farhad Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kaliganj Police Station.

Hours later, police arrested the prime accused Rocky, 26, of Baninagar village in Kaliganj upazila.

The victim's medical test was completed yesterday afternoon, said the Kaliganj OC, adding the police are continuing drives to arrest the rest of the accused.

In Dinajpur, several hundred members of the local indigenous community staged a demonstration yesterday demanding trial of the "killers" of 23-year-old Rukit Rout, who was allegedly killed after gang-rape.

The demonstration, which started at 10:30am and lasted two hours, was held at Shaheed Minar mor in Parbatipur upazila.

At the demonstration, members of the indigenous community alleged that she was killed after gang-rape.

Rukit, an honours final year student of Carmichael College in Rangpur city, was on her way to her dormitory from her home in Adivasi Palli Missionpara in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur on the afternoon of October 5, said her father.

Police recovered Rukit's body the next day from Panchpukuria village in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur.

The victim's father, Dinesh Rout, filed a murder case with local police, who arrested three persons in this connection on Thursday.

One of the accused, Anisur Rahman, 24, gave confessional testimony before a court admitting to his involvement with the killing, said police. The trio was later sent to jail.

[Our correspondents from Lalmonirhat and Dinajpur contributed to this report.]



Special forces perform during National Day celebrations in front of the Presidential Building in Taipei, Taiwan, yesterday. Taiwan wants to have “meaningful dialogue” with China on an equal basis, President Tsai Ing-wen said yesterday, extending an olive branch at a time of heightened military tension with Beijing, which claims the island as sovereign Chinese territory.

PHOTO: REUTERS

On the road to ancient Srihatta

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In Nidhanpur, which is in the vicinity of the temple, seven copperplate inscriptions of early 7th century Kamrupa King Bhaskaravarman were found in 1912.

More than 200 Brahmins were made Jamindars through these copperplates.

Dwarkanath Chandra Nath, president of Basudeva Sebak Sangha, the managing authority of the temple, said, “In the copperplates, seven percent of total land granted was meant for some religious rituals related to idol worship. The temple might have been established Centring the rituals.”

Several ancient idols were found in ponds of Supatala village.
DHYANI BUDDHA STATUE

The Dhyan Buddha statue was found along with the Basudeva and the Mahamaya (Durga) statues in the early 19th century while digging a pond of Durgadalai's house in Supatala.

In the book “Srihatter Itibritta”, Achyut Charan Choudhury cited that Durgadalai was an employee of the last Jaintia King Rajendra Singha.

Durgadalai gifted the Mahamaya statue to the king while Basudeva statue was restored in the temple. These happened before 1835 as the king died that year in British captivity, the book mentioned.

The miniature statue of Buddha seated and meditating is 4 inches tall and 2.5 inches wide. The face and back are damaged and left hand is broken.

Swadhin Sen, professor of the Department of Archaeology at Jahangirnagar University, and Mosharraf Hossain, former director

of the government's Department of Archaeology, said the statue was one of Panchatathagata -- the five Tathagatas or five great Buddhas.

Though the left hand is broken, seeing the pose of right hand, they opine that the hands are posing as a representation of Dharma Chakra (Wheel of Dharma).

According to the Buddhist explanation of Panchatathagata, this pose is the Vairocana, the principal deity or mediator. Other Dhyan Buddha statues are Amoghasiddhi, Amitabha, Ratnasambhava and Akshobhya.

Swadhin Sen said it might be of 8th-12th century while Mosharraf Hossain opined of 12th-13th century.

Historian Himadri Das Purkayastha said, “During 9th-10th century, Mahayana Buddhists, particularly of Vajrayana belief, were influential in greater Sylhet. Finding the statue is the archaeological proof of the Mahayana Buddhism's practice in the region.”

THE GARUDASHIN VISHNU
The Garudashin Vishnu statue was found in 1982 while digging pond of the temple.

According to Hindu Triad or Great Trinity, Vishnu represents goodness and preservation.

In ancient and medieval period, Vishnu statues are found in different forms and names -- of different count of hands. His Basudeva forms are common in Bangladesh, while the Garudashin form is rare.

Archaeologist Mosharraf Hossain said, “Among more than six hundred Vishnu statues found in Bangladesh, only seven are of Garudashin Vishnu. It's a rare antiquity. This particular

statue looks older compared to others.”

The statue is of 2.7 feet tall and 1.2 foot in width. The four handed statue clock-wisely holds club, wheel, conch and lotus.

In this statue, Vishnu is seated on the Garuda with his feet on the hands



of the mythical creature. The Garuda is posing to start flying with one leg on top of lotus and another in the ground with bended knee.

Niru Shamsun Nahar, former keeper of Bangladesh National Museum, said, “The statue doesn't look still, but very lively. Carved in stone with excellent efficiency and of exact ratio. It's a work of a master

sculptor”.

“A unique sculpting method flourished in Bangla-Bihar region by 8th-13th century and 10th-11th century as the golden era of sculpting. This statue represents the features of the golden era and I think it's of that era,” she said.

THE STATUES: IMPORTANCE AND CONSERVATION

As the Panchakhanda Basudeva Angan is dedicated to lord Vishnu, the Garudashin Vishnu statue is being worshipped along with the Basudeva statue.

The Buddha statue is also being worshipped as an idol of Narayana.

Swadhin Sen said, “The idols are very important in terms of their find-spots and location, as the Nidhanpur copperplate inscriptions are found in the area.

“The time of issuance of the inscriptions and the stylistic date on these idols are not same. Two idols of Vishnu belong to a later date, tentatively to 11th-12th century. They, however, points at the continuous occupation of this area of Barak-Surma Valley from 8th-12th century.”

In contrary to the practice of collecting and displaying such religious statues in the museums, he said, “These are an essential part of living religious traditions as they are being worshipped. These valuable archaeological objects must be kept in the temple and their ownership by the local community must be protected.”

[Taron Sarker is a freelance journalist who writes for The Daily Star. Translated by Dwioha Chowdhury]

World reels from Covid-29 2nd wave

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than 400 new cases daily -- also covers all shops except pharmacies and petrol stations, although they will be banned from selling alcohol.

“This is not the time to party,” said Berlin's social democratic mayor Michael Muller. “We can and we want to prevent another more severe confinement.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel had already warned Friday that high-infection areas would be given 10 days to bring down cases or face tougher action, calling big cities the “arena” to keep the pandemic under control.

In neighbouring Poland, the authorities told people to wear face masks in all public spaces after

coronavirus cases hit a new record daily high of 4,280.

To the south, the Czech Republic faced the prospect of a new lockdown as the growth in Covid-19 cases set a fourth straight daily record. The number of 8,618 was the fastest spike in Europe.

Governments on several continents are struggling to keep up with a sharp rise in infections as the pandemic's second wave arrives ahead of the northern hemisphere's influenza season.

Since it emerged in China late last year, the virus has killed more than one million worldwide, infected more than 36 million and forced millions more out of work as the pandemic

batters the global economy.

Latin America and the Caribbean marked 10 million cases yesterday and with more than 360,000 deaths, the region is the worst hit in terms of fatalities, according to official figures.

EU Commissioner Mariya Gabriel was the latest high-profile figure to test positive for Covid-19. She announced the news yesterday, the first top Brussels official known to have caught the coronavirus.

And British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who himself spent time in hospital for the virus, is to outline a new three-tier lockdown system tomorrow.

On Friday, the Spanish government declared a state of emergency and a

new partial lockdown for Madrid, as it faced increasing public resistance to anti-virus measures.

People were barred from leaving the city except for work, school or medical reasons, measures denounced by the city's rightwing authorities.

The resistance in Madrid echoes problems the French government faced last month when it shut bars and restaurants in Marseille, provoking the fury of local officials.

Partial shutdowns have since been extended to Paris and other major urban areas, and another four French cities were placed on maximum coronavirus alert Thursday, with bars ordered closed and public gatherings limited.

Trump eyes come back with White House speech

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Trump-Biden showdown before election day on November 3.

That prompted accusations of bias from Trump campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh, who said “there is no medical reason to stop” the October 15 debate from proceeding.

Knocked off the campaign trail by his three-night hospitalisation last week, the president is in the midst of a frenetic bid to catch Biden.

On Friday, during an extended media blitz, Trump falsely claimed that Covid-19 now has a cure.

He also revealed that he'd been told he was near death at the worst of his bout with the virus, which has killed more than 213,000 Americans and severely dented his chances of winning a second term.

The speech, which a senior administration official said would be on Trump's favored theme of “law and order,” will give him a chance to dispel lingering doubts about his health.

The crowd will be on the South Lawn of the White House, while the

president will speak from the balcony.

A source with knowledge of the planning said all attendees will be required to wear masks and have their temperature checked.

Tomorrow, Trump will take another major step by holding a rally in a crucial battleground state.

“Will be in Sanford, Florida on Monday for a very BIG RALLY!” Trump tweeted.

The events come despite continued questions over how sick Trump was and how complete his recovery is now, with White House officials refusing to answer basic queries including when the president first contracted the virus and whether he has tested negative since.

After Trump spent months mocking Biden for staying at home during the pandemic, it is Biden who has bamboozled swing states this week.

He visited Arizona Thursday and campaigned Friday in Nevada. Trump won both states in 2016 but they are now narrowly tilting Democratic in polls.

At a drive-in style event in Las

Vegas, Biden slammed the president.

“His reckless personal conduct since his diagnosis, the destabilizing effect it's having on our government, is unconscionable,” Biden said.

As he boarded his campaign plane he offered a message for those attending Trump's public events: “Good luck. I wouldn't show up unless you had a mask and were distanced.”

On Friday, Trump gave a marathon interview to right-wing talk radio host Rush Limbaugh in which he said the experimental Regeneron antibody cocktail that he took as part of therapeutic treatment was “a cure.”

It's “a total game changer” and “better than a vaccine,” he said.

In fact, there is no cure and still no approved vaccine for the coronavirus.

Later Friday he appeared in his first televised interview since he was diagnosed with the virus, telling Fox's Tucker Carlson show he is now “medication-free.”

Trump has repeatedly asserted that he feels fine, and he has been backed

up by statements from presidential physician Sean Conley.

But in his Limbaugh interview, Trump suggested for the first time that he had been close to death, had it not been for his aggressive regimen of therapeutic drugs.

“I'm talking to you today because of it. I could have been a bad victim,” he said, adding that doctors told him: “You were going into a very bad phase.”

Polls show Biden leads heavily in key demographics including women and the elderly, prompting analysts to talk increasingly of a possible landslide victory.

Trump's biggest liability -- overwhelming public dissatisfaction over his handling of the pandemic -- has returned as the headline issue of the campaign thanks to his own infection.

Adding to the pressure, Democrats who control the House of Representatives unveiled plans for a commission to investigate a president's fitness for the job -- a move clearly meant to jab at Trump.

Space internet

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Musk tweeted following the launch. “Other countries to follow as soon as we receive regulatory approval.”

The Starlink network has already been tested on a limited scale, providing internet to emergency responders in the US following recent wildfires.

The Washington Emergency Management division was able to set up a Starlink-powered WiFi hotspot for residents in Malden last month after 80 per cent of the town was destroyed by fire.

Musk said at the time that SpaceX was prioritising emergency services and locations with no internet connectivity at all.

In April, the billionaire entrepreneur said that 800 satellites would be enough for “significant” global coverage, though speeds will be nowhere near the 100 megabits per second speed promised by SpaceX until the network grows.

“With performance that far surpasses that of traditional satellite internet, and a global network unbounded by ground infrastructure limitations, Starlink will deliver high-speed broadband internet to locations where access has been unreliable, expensive, or completely unavailable,” Starlink's website states.

Areas that will fall within the public beta test include the Detroit metropolitan area and Ann Arbor in Michigan, according to Musk.

Users will be able to get signal for the network using a personal antenna device that will serve as a WiFi hotspot.

The network has faced criticism from some astronomers, who claim that the long trains of satellites disrupt observations and could hinder scientific progress.

SpaceX has made efforts to reduce the impact of the satellites, however a recent report by the Satellite Constellations 1 (Satcon1) workshop warned that “no combination of mitigations can completely avoid the impacts of satellite trails on the science programs of the coming generation.”

Tortured

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the camp in a critical condition. Locals later took him to the hospital, Jalal said.

No case was filed in connection with the death of the boy till filing of this report last night.

1 killed

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Saeed stabbed Yasin indiscriminately, leaving him critically injured. Yasin was rushed to Chandpur Sadar Hospital. He died on the way to Dhaka Medical College.

Addressing a press conference at his election office in Chandpur town, BNP mayoral candidate Akhter Hossain alleged that their activists Jewel Dewan, Shahriar, Ibrahim Khalil, Tajul Islam and Momin were injured as AL activists attacked them outside the same polling centre around 11:00am.

Another BNP activist Jalil Majhi was injured in an AL activist attack outside the Sabdar Khan Government Primary School polling centre, he alleged.

Voting at the Chandpur municipality election began at 52 centres at 9:00am. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were used in 15 wards of the municipality polls that continued till 5:00pm.

There were three candidates for the post of mayor in the polls. Fifty candidates contested for 15 general councillor posts in 15 wards and 14 candidates for five reserved women councillor posts.

Treat NGOs

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the technical area.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, chief moderator of BDCSO Process and also the executive director of Coast Trust, said the UN's role is irreplaceable when it comes to multilateralism.

He stressed the need for UN role in reinforcing civil society space.

Roberto Bissio, a renowned development activist in Uruguay, said one of the functions of the civil society, recognised by the UN agenda 2030, is to exercise the accountability of the government.

On a global level, international institutions should be held accountable so that multilateralism works, he said, adding that one way to make institutions accountable is to follow their money flow.

The UN was created 75 years ago to bring peace and development, and free the world from war, Roberto said.

However, \$1.7 trillion is the annual global military expenditure now, whereas the total UN expenses that include work for peace, development, humanitarian work, and full functioning of its human rights system is \$48.3 billion, he added.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council, which have the most responsibility in maintaining peace, have by far the most military expenditure, the development activist said.

Lauding the activities of BDCSO Process, newly-appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Ethiopia Nazrul Islam said the platform has been complementing the government's nation building process.

Mohsin Ali, executive director of Wave Foundation, and Smruti Patel and Koenraad Van Brabant, both Switzerland-based development activists, among others, addressed the session.