KL agrees
FROM PAGE 12

pandemic.

sending workers, arranging next

joint working group meeting, and

stranded Bangladeshi workers' return

to Malaysia amid the coronavirus

Bangladesh will send a list of all

licensed recruiting agents and

Malaysia will select a required number

of agents from the list to ensure safe

The whole recruitment process,

including workers' selection from

database and due payment through

banking channels, will be monitored

using an integrated online system, it

Both ministers further agreed

The ministers agreed to hold the

to enhance monitoring on the

next joint working group meeting

soon, while Malaysia in principle

agreed to take effective steps to

ensure return of stranded Bangladeshi

Bangladesh will be informed later

During the virtual meeting,

Imran Ahmad sought Saravanan's

intervention in regularisation of

Bangladeshi migrant workers who still

remained undocumented in Malaysia.

countries also attended the meeting,

High-placed officials from both

recruitment process.

workers to Malaysia.

about this, the release said.

labour migration, said the release.

Both ministers agreed that

Double trouble for the poor

food budget, yet I fail to ensure adequate food for my family. Even buying eggs and potatoes have now become difficult for many of us," she

Like Salma and Forkan, hundreds of daily wage earners, including day labourers, hawkers, rickshaw-pullers, roadside vendors, and small business owners, are facing double the crisis a dwindling income and rising food prices, shrinking their access to adequate and sufficient food.

According to World Hunger Index (GHI) 2020, published on October 12, Bangladesh has reduced hunger by a significant margin, but the severity of the crisis still remains serious. The country has moved 13 notches up to the 75th position among 107 countries in the index.

Arif Hossain, chief executive officer and executive director of Farming Future Bangladesh (FFB), thinks the country may not face the worst adversity of pandemic in the food and nutrition sector as it is self-sufficient in food production due to the government's various measures.

"But a coordinated and long term multi-sectoral strategic approach will be vital to ensure nutrition and food security for the future of Bangladesh,"

"We need science and advanced agricultural innovations for healthier and nutritious food. We also need nation-wide awareness through evidence-based information to ensure equal access to nutritious food for the poor and ultra-poor people," said Arif, also a visiting scientist at Cornell University.

Experts said the availability of food must be increased along with the food production to ensure sufficient access to food for marginalised people. Besides, a proper distribution channel along with a smooth supply chain has to be ensured, they added.

According to finance ministry sources, some 2.54 crore families in 496 upazilas and municipalities had received rice and cash handovers in April, May and June.

Food Secretary Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum said although the food assistance programmes and open market sales are going on, no fresh programmes would be launched any time soon targeting the new poor.

Under the food assistance programmes, a total of 155,813 tonnes of rice was sold at Tk 10 in September and around 1.5 lakh tonnes rice was allocated for the month of October, she said.

"We are thinking of the new poor but no programme has yet been initiated," she said.

Agriculture Minister Razzaque said, "Even after the success in food production, we need to be aware of food and nutrition security in post-Covid-19 Bangladesh."

"We must continue our initiative," he said at a press briefing at the secretariat office vesterday.

Against this backdrop, the country

commemorates World Food Day today with the theme "Grow, nourish, sustain together - Our actions are our future".

The day comes as Bangladesh and the rest of the world continue to fight the pandemic, which has caused unprecedented economic and social disruption, leaving thousands out of work or working for less pay, making

According to the government's estimate, the pandemic has doubled poverty in Bangladesh, raising the number of the country's ultra-poor from 10.5 percent of the population to 20.5 percent as of June.

The planning ministry in August estimated that poverty increased from 20.5 percent to 29.4 percent as a considerable number of people lost their income due to the Covid-19

A Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) survey on the impacts of the pandemic on livelihood released last month said 46.22 percent households wiped out savings and 11.26 percent had either sold property or kept mortgaged them.

The survey styled "Perception Survey on the Impacts of Livelihood", said some 43.11 percent had to rely on handouts from relatives and 17.93 percent on private borrowing in order

It further said 68.39 percent of the families went through financial problems from April to July with rickshaw/van-pullers and day labourers taking the worst hit.

In this situation, the ongoing price hike of food and essential items is adding salt to the injuries to hundreds of urban poor households, leading to a decrease in food consumption.

This has become a major concern for food and nutrition safety, experts

"A huge number of people are at risk of nutrition insecurity as they had to compromise with nutrition intake,' said noted economist Hossain Zillur

He said the price hikes of essential commodities have already hit the urban poor harder than the rural ones.

Zillur, also the chairperson of Brac, said, "We are fortunate that our boro production was good. The government has to keep an eye on aman production and food pricing. If any of these two falters, the situation will be grave."

He suggested that the government should continue the special food assistance package for the poor.

The nutrition status of the country had improved due to a diversity in diet as the per capita consumption of meat, eggs, fish, fruits, vegetables and milk had increased.

But the Covid-19 pandemic has put that status under threat.

The BBS survey said some 63.42 percent of households had to cut consumption of quality foods during the April to July period.

Similarly, a World Bank study published last month said that 69 percent of households reduced their overall food consumption.



grievances, in Nice yesterday as part of a nationwide day of actions to urge the government to increase staff as hospitals fill once again with Covid-19 patients. PHOTO: REUTERS

Decision soon on whether to hold

how they would arrange the admission

UGC member Muhammed Alamgir said it was decided that VCs will discuss the first-year admission test process at the Bishwabidyalaya Parishad meeting.

"They will discuss a range of issues, including the use of HSC exam GPAs in the university admission tests... and after that we will analyse the matter," Alamgir said.

Debate about the weightage of HSC GPAs in the university admission process for the upcoming academic session emerged after the government decided to award grades to candidates of HSC and equivalent exams without holding the public exams amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Instead of the exams, candidates' evaluation would be based on their results in the Junior School Certificate,

voters this year, and they are just as

likely to pick Biden as they are Trump.

holding a 10-percentage-point lead

nationally, with a tighter margin in

the battleground states that will help

Trump - needs to win undecideds at

a disproportionate rate to catch up.

So, if that isn't happening, he's not really cutting into Biden's lead," said

Kyle Kondik, an election analyst at the

Center for Politics at the University of

Compounding Trump's challenge

has been a record rush of early voting

Record early US turnout with three

weeks to go: Georgians, Texans line

up to vote that far outpaces the rate

in 2016 - more people want to avoid

Election Day crowds because of the

already voted, according to the US

Elections Project at the University of

Florida. That compares with about 1.4

million early votes by October 16 in

But the opinion polls suggest more

The Reuters/Ipsos national poll

voters have settled on their choice,

reducing the opportunity for large,

found that only about 8% of likely voters appear to be undecided, saying

either that they do not know whom

to support or that they are thinking

about backing a third-party candidate.

the campaign, more than twice as

many people were similarly wavering

between Trump and his Democratic

opponent Hillary Clinton, injecting a

volatile element late into a race that

their minds in the final week of the

2016 campaign, 55% picked Trump

while 36% picked Clinton, according

to a Reuters/Ipsos poll of voters on

They were critical for Trump's

Among those voters who made up

Clinton had been expected to win.

Four years ago at this stage of

Almost 15 million Americans have

novel coronavirus pandemic.

the 2016 election.

late swings.

"The candidate who is behind -

to decide the election.

The polling also shows Biden

Trump can't count

Secondary School Certificate and equivalent tests.

HSC and equivalent exams were cancelled out of fear that they would increase risk of coronavirus transmission. More than 13.65 lakh students were expected to sit for the

The government postponed the exams following the closure of all educational institutions on March 17. They are to stay closed until at least

Usually, universities took the GPA of SSC and HSC exams into account, alongside admission tests, while holding the entry exams at public

Alamgir said that at yesterday's meeting they also urged all public universities to strengthen their online education process and take steps so that students can continue their

He said UGC informed the VCs that they are keeping contact with the government, seeking grants or soft loans for students who would need to buy digital devices to attend online classes. UGC in a statement after the

meeting said that Bangladesh Bishwabidyalaya Parishad, from its meeting on October 17, will made a decision in principle regarding the admission tests. "But UGC wants that no question

regarding the tests," the arises statement said.

UGC Chairman Prof Kazi Shahidullah at the meeting said that the nation wants a specific guideline from the VCs regarding the admission

UGC said that it would not be wise to reopen the universities amid the pandemic as many VCs opined that it would be a suicidal decision.

Americans, remain deeply concerned

how to talk to anybody but his base,'

said Sarah Longwell, a Republican

Cincinnati and Toledo in Ohio and

outside populous Fort Lauderdale in

Florida. Both Ohio and Florida are

and suburban women voters, many

of whom gave him a chance in 2016

and who have been troubled by his

coronavirus response and his caustic,

Pennsylvania on Tuesday, Trump

confounded

unpopularity with that voting bloc.

he implored. "Would you please like

'Do me a favor, suburban women,"

In particular, the president has

problems with independent

in Johnstown,

"Donald Trump has never learned

about becoming infected.

battleground states.

divisive language.

At a rally

pollster.

They won't FROM PAGE 12 being. The decision came from the

the release said.

ministry's regular inter-ministerial meeting.

"We have also invited applications or registration of YouTube channels or IP TVs. They are under investigation. We will start registering them after completion of the preliminary investigation," he said.

The minister said YouTube channels and IP TVs won't be able to provide regular news. "That's why when a television channel gets permission, they are not allowed to broadcast news at the beginning. They need to fulfill some parametres and need to re-apply for the permission. They are then allowed to present news. For now, IP TVs won't be able to provide news."

Asked about the stage of registration of online portals, he said the registration process was underway.

"Many online news portals have already been registered. The rest will be given. The registration process will take several months because we are able to register only after the investigation agency reports. But I hope we will be able to complete most of the egistrations this year," Hasan added.

Biden, by contrast, this week has campaigned in the cities of Problems

A cabinet sub-committee on food and other essential commodities also holds a meeting today. They discuss how to improve the supply position of rice, wheat and other essential commodities.

FORD FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE CALLS ON PM

Ford Foundation Executive President David E Bell, now on a five-day tour in Bangladesh, calls on the Bangabandhu. He informs the prime minister about the ongoing schemes of Ford Foundation. He says the Ford Foundation is exploring the future possibilities of helping the development of Bangladesh in its economy, education and health sectors.

SOURCES: October 17, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

EU sanctions senior Putin aides over Navalny, Libya

The EU yesterday sanctioned senior aides to Russian President Vladimir Putin, including the man known as his chef, over the poisoning of opposition figure Alexei Navalny and Kremlin meddling in Libya's civil war.

The EU said Yevgeny Prigozhin, nicknamed "Putin's chef" because his company has done catering for the Kremlin, was undermining peace in Libya by supporting the Wagner Group private military company.

Six others, including the head of Russia's FSB domestic spy agency, were sanctioned over the attempt to nerve agent.

Shakespeare First

FROM PAGE 12 English language.

It was published after the death of

the Bard, who lived from 1564 until 1616, and was compiled by two of his friends, John Heminge and Henry Condell. It contains major works which

would probably have been lost were it not the collection, including 'Macbeth" and "Twelfth Night." Several books have brought in

higher prices, such as the Codex Leicester of Leonardo De Vinci, which Bill Gates bought for \$30.8 million in But none is a literary work of

Chhatra Adhikar Parishad

University student.

Ismail Samrat, member secretary of the committee, said, "In February, Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, which led the quota reforms movement, was renamed Chhatra Adhikar Parishad. With the change in name, principles and norms of the organisation was also changed. The organisation is now being run arbitrarily.

He said Chhatra Adhikar Parishad had initiated the formation of three affiliated organisations -- Bangladesh Jubo Adhikar Parishad, Sharimik Adhikar Parishad and Prabasi Adhikar

Parishad. "The aims and objectives of these organisations are still unknown

Asked about the split, Nur said Suhel was expelled from the organisation. "And this [the split] might have been done to put pressure on us under the patronage or persuasion of the government However, everyone has the democratic right to form a new organisation. People will know which is real and which is fake."

Leaders of the new committee claimed that the expulsion of Suhel was the decision of a "DU syndicate" of Chhatra Adhikar Parishad, led by

Thais defy protest ban

a country where the constitution says he must be revered.

"The people who came know that there is a ban against public gathering of five or more," said police spokesman Kissana Phathanacharoen. "We will take things step by step.

Three months of protests in the country of 70 million have been largely peaceful, as was a march by tens of thousands of people on Wednesday. But in one incident, police pushed jeering protesters away from a motorcade carrying Queen Suthida.

Overnight the government banned political gatherings of five or more people and the publication of news and online information that could threaten national security. Riot police swiftly cleared a protest camp outside Prayuth's office.

"The measures were necessary to ensure peace and order and to prevent further incidents after protesters affected the royal motorcade and violated the monarchy with provocative language," government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri said in a statement.

He rejected accusations from some government critics that the motorcade incident was an excuse to crack down.

Thai media reported that arrest warrants had been issued against two people for injuring the queen - which can carry a life sentence, whereas the maximum penalty for insulting the monarch under lese majeste laws is 15 vears in jail.

Police said they had arrested protest leaders Parit "Penguin" Chiwarak and rights lawyer Arnon Nampa overnight. Student leader Panusaya "Rung" Sithijirawattanakul was taken away in a wheelchair.

Arnon said on Facebook he was

taken to Chiang Mai, where he faces sedition charges over a speech in August. Panusaya and Parit also face

They all deny the charges. The protest movement aims to remove Prayuth, saying he manipulated an election last year to keep hold of

sedition charges over comments at

previous protests, their lawyer said.

power. He says the election was fair. Those marching on the streets also want a new constitution and have called for a reduction in the powers of the king. They want his role to be clearly subject to the constitution and seek the reversal of orders that gave him control of the palace fortune and some army units.

The protests have largely been driven by young people.

"We don't want anyone or the next generation to have to put up with this. We have to end it with us," said Mameaw, 17, who came to the protest right after school exams. She declined to give her full name.

4 of a family FROM PAGE 12

house, he added.

brother's room

The initial investigation shows that it was a planned murder, Haran Pal said. Shahinur's younger brother Raihanul Islam said he was sleeping in the next room when he heard groans from his

He opened the door, which was locked from outside, and found the four in a pool of blood.

One of the children was still alive when he opened the door but died moments later, Raihanul said.

He added that they were in dispute with some neighbours over land, but he was not sure about who committed the murder.

Trump over Clinton that year, tipping those tight races in his favor on election night. Trump won Michigan and Pennsylvania by less than 1 percentage point and he won Florida by less than 2 points. One of the big questions hanging over the 2020 election has been

success: a majority of late deciders

in the battleground states of Florida,

Michigan and Pennsylvania backed

whether there will be a repeat of 2016's 11th hour surge of support for Trump. The new Reuters/Ipsos poll indicates that is unlikely to happen when forced to choose, undecided voters broke evenly for Trump and Biden, with each getting 4% support.

The poll also found that 9 out of 10 likely Biden voters and 9 out of 10 likely Trump voters say they have locked in their decision and will not change their mind. Nevertheless, the Trump campaign

said it remains confident that undecided voters will ultimately break

"Our campaign is confident in the big tent, diverse coalition of support we've built over the last six years," said Ken Farnaso, a Trump spokesman. WORK TO DO Trump not only needs to convert

more undecided voters to his side, but persuade some Biden supporters to come back to him. Trump's campaign schedule and rhetoric, however, suggest he's more concerned with mobilizing his

conservative base in the final weeks of the election rather than try to reach undecided voters. This week he is visiting regions where his support is likely to be strongest: rural and semi-rural patches of Georgia, North Carolina, Michigan

more likely to reside. Trump is playing down the threat of the virus, even after his own bout of infection and opinion polls showing a majority of the public, including

and Pennsylvania. Trump has avoided

suburban areas where swing voters are

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Date: ১৫/১০/২০২০

Tender Notice (OTM)

| e-render is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<u>nttp://www.eprocure.gov.bd</u>) for the procurement of given tenders: | | | | |
|--|---|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| SI. | Description of item | Tender ID No. | Tender document last | Tender closing |
| No. | · | | selling date and time | date and time |
| 1 | Construction of Boundary wall Road Drain and site Development | 504440 | 28/10/2020 | 29/10/2020 |
| | works of Mirsharai Farmars Training Center under the Project titled | | 17:00 | 11:05 |
| | Farmars Training at the Upazila Level for Transfer of Technology | | | |
| 2 | Construction of 6-Storied Simulator Building under the Project titled | 505712 | 15/11/2020 | 15/11/2020 |
| | Procurement of Simulator for National Maritime Institute Chattogram. | | 11:00 | 11:15 |

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<u>helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd</u>).

Md. Mainul Islam Executive Engineer Chattogram PWD Division-3 Agrabad, Chattogram E-mail: ee-Ctg3@Pwd.gov.bo

murder Navalny using the Novichok many in the key voting bloc of older Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Step up controls

Election Day.

to toughen anti-coronavirus measures, imposing a curfew in Paris and eight other cities from Saturday, while Germany and Ireland also ramped up restrictions. "We have to act. We need to put

a brake on the spread of the virus,

President Emmanuel Macron told

public television, announcing a

shutdown between 9:00 pm and 6:00 am that will remain in force for as long as six weeks. Other major French cities such as Lyon, the Mediterranean port Marseille and southwestern Toulouse will similarly impose curfews, with around

20 million people affected in all, out of a total population of some 67 million. French police searched the home of Health Minister Olivier Veran yesterday as part of an inquiry into the government's handling of the coronavirus crisis, his office said.

London, the world's international financial capital, will enter a tighter lockdown from midnight today as Prime Minister Boris Johnson seeks to tackle a swiftly accelerating second wave.

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