



4-LANE DHAKA-BHANGA EXPRESS HIGHWAY BUILT WITH BS RM XTREME

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT BS RM building a safer nation



GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES

World's Largest VRM

SHAH CEMENT

Thais defy protest ban, emergency

Tens of thousands occupy central Bangkok; curb imposed on publication; 20 held

REUTERS, Bangkok

Tens of thousands of Thai protesters cheered and chanted into the night in central Bangkok yesterday in a show of mass defiance to a ban on demonstrations designed to end more than three months of anti-government action.

The growing demonstrations have targeted King Maha Vajiralongkorn as well as Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former junta leader, in the biggest challenge for years to an establishment long dominated by the army and palace.

"Like dogs cornered, we are fighting till our deaths," Panupong "Mike Rayong" Jadnok, one of the high-profile protest leaders who remains free, told the crowd. "We won't fall back. We won't run away. We won't go anywhere."

Protesters ignored police appeals to disperse and spilled from the Ratchaprasong Intersection across streets and walkways, their mobile phones shimmering in the night. The location was the scene of bloodshed in 2010, during more than a decade of violence between supporters and opponents of the Thai establishment.

Protesters chanted for the release of some 40 activists arrested this week. Some also called out insults against the king - until recently almost unheard of behaviour in

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People coming to the Bir Muktiyoddha Sirajul Islam Station as the Banglabandha Express train was launched yesterday by the railway minister around 12:30pm. The train was launched to ease communication between northern districts and Rajshahi on the Panchagarh-Rajshahi route.

PHOTO: KAMRUL ISLAM

KL agrees to reopen labour market for Bangladeshis

Says expatriates' welfare ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia has agreed to reopen its labour market for Bangladeshi migrant workers soon, according to a press release of expatriates' welfare ministry.

During an online meeting with Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad yesterday, Malaysia's Human Resources Minister M Saravanan hoped labour recruitment will start once the Covid-19 situation improves, said the release.

Malaysia suspended hiring Bangladeshi workers in September, 2018 on allegation of malpractices in the recruitment process and high recruitment costs.

At the meeting, both ministers discussed several other issues including signing of an agreement, introducing an online system in labour recruitment, recruiting agents' role in

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Chhatra Adhikar Parishad splits

A faction of the forum forms a new platform, declares ex-Ducus VP Nur persona non grata

DU CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Chhatra Adhikar Parishad yesterday left the organisation and formed a new one declaring the parishad's joint conveners Nurul Haque Nur, also former Ducus vice-president, and Muhammad Rashed Khan personae non gratae.

They announced a 22-member convening committee for the new organisation and named it "Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad", the old name of Chhatra Adhikar Parishad.

"Expelled" joint convener of the Chhatra Adhikar Parishad, APM Suhel, made the announcement at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

Suhel is the convener of the new committee.

The faction alleged that Nur was doing "dirty politics with people's sentiments", accused him of opaque financial transactions, running the Chhatra Adhikar Parishad undemocratically, and politicising the rape case filed by a Dhaka

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Problems of every area will be tackled: Bangabandhu

October 16, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today provides assurance that all possible measures would be taken to remove the difficulties confronting people of the northern districts. While talking to the MCAs belonging to the northern districts when they call on him at the Gono Bhavan today, Bangabandhu says the government is fully aware of the problems created by the wholesale devastation and destruction of the Pakistani occupation forces for the people of the northern districts.

Bangabandhu gives the MCAs an account of what the government has been doing to solve the problems one after another and says there would be no dearth of initiative on the part of the government to stand by the people.

"It is only a question of time," he says. The prime minister also cautions them against regional bias and says it is the declared policy of the government that all regions of the country will develop equally.

CABINET MEETS Topics of national interest are discussed in a full cabinet meeting held at the Gono Bhavan today. The one-hour cabinet meeting is presided over by Bangabandhu.



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4 of a family murdered at Satkhira home

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A family of four, including two children, was killed during a robbery in their house in Satkhira's Kalaroa upazila early yesterday.

The victims are Shahinur Rahman, a 40-year-old fish trader, his wife Sabina Khatun, 35, their son Siyam Hossain, 10, and daughter, Taslima, 8.

Haran Pal, officer-in-charge of Kalaroa Police Station, said that around 6:30am, Helatola Union Parishad Chairman Moazzem Hossain informed police about a family being killed by robbers at Khalisha village.

A team of police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies.

Police, however, found no evidence of a robbery during their primary investigation as nothing was missing from the

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Shakespeare First Folio sold for record \$10m



AFP, New York

A copy of the first collection of plays by William Shakespeare was sold Wednesday for \$9.97 million at auction in New York, setting a new record for a work of literature.

The price paid for the work, widely known as the First Folio exceeded by far the estimated range of \$4-6 million set by Christie's, which held the auction.

The collection, printed in 1623 and containing 36 plays by the English master, is frequently described as the greatest literary work in the

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IP TV, YOUTUBE CHANNELS

They won't be allowed to air news

Says info minister

UNB, Dhaka

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said YouTube channels and IP TVs would not be allowed to present news.

They can only be run as entertainment channels, the minister said at a dialogue organised by Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum at the Secretariat.

Hasan said IP TVs can do everything else, but they cannot do the job of providing news for the time

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 16

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:50 12:30 4:00 5:38 7:15
JAMAAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:41 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

US ELECTION 2020

Trump can't count on last-minute deciders

Shows new Reuters/Ipsos polling

REUTERS, Washington

Four years ago, US President Donald Trump rode a wave of late-deciding voters to a shocking election victory. But those voters are unlikely to rescue him again, new Reuters/Ipsos polling shows.

With less than three weeks to go until the November 3 vote, and Republican Trump trailing his Democratic rival Joe Biden nationally and in battleground states, his campaign is counting on a surge of last-minute votes to reverse the tide and give him a second term.

But Reuters/Ipsos polling conducted between October 9-13 shows there are far fewer undecided

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AN UNEXPECTED SPECTATOR: A black kite sits on a structure in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. Opportunistic hunters, they spend most of their time soaring and gliding in search of prey. They are often spotted at the stadium, looking for food.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Step up controls now to save lives

WHO urges Europe as Covid 2nd wave forces curfews in France

AGENCIES

Imposing tighter controls to curb Covid-19 contagion could save hundreds of thousands of lives across Europe before February as the continent battles an exponential surge in infections already forcing curfews and lockdowns, the World Health Organization said yesterday.

Urging governments to "step up" swiftly to contain in a second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, the WHO's European Director Hans Kluge said the current situation was, "more than ever, pandemic times for Europe".

New infections are hitting 100,000 daily in Europe, and the region has just registered the highest weekly incidence of Covid-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic, with almost 700,000 cases reported.

"The fall (autumn) and winter surge continues to unfold in Europe, with exponential increases in daily cases and matching percentage increases in daily deaths," Kluge told an online media briefing.

"It's time to step up. The message to governments is: don't hold back with relatively small actions to avoid the painful damaging actions we saw in the first round (in March and April)."

More than 38 million people globally have been reported as infected with Covid-19, and 1.1 million have died. Swift tightening measures now - such as enforcing widespread mask-wearing and controlling social gatherings in public or private spaces - could save up to 281,000 lives by February across the 53 countries that make up the WHO European region, Kluge added.

VIRUS RESTRICTIONS

France on Wednesday became the latest European country

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