

**3-DAY ULTIMATUM
TO PM TO QUIT**
Protesters return to
Bangkok streets
SEE PAGE 6

The Daily Star

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know



REGD. No. DA 781

Vol. XXX No. 274

KARTIK 10, 1427 BS

RABIUL AWAL 8, 1442 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



**"They're playing with the nation
in the name of elections."**
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL ISLAM
ALAMGIR AT A PROTEST RALLY



**"This is the culmination of a worldwide movement to draw attention to the
catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons."**
UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES HAIL TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO ENTER
INTO FORCE



"We are changing the map of the Middle East."
ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU
AFTER SIGNING NORMALISATION ACCORDS
WITH ARAB STATES

PREVENTING SECOND WAVE

No mask NO SERVICE

*Govt asks public, private organisations
not to provide services to those
without face coverings*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has asked public and private organisations not to provide services to people without a face covering as it aims to curb a possible second wave of Covid-19.

A "no mask, no service" policy will be implemented and all organisations will be monitored because the government made masks mandatory in all institutions, markets, schools, and social and religious gatherings.

The directives came yesterday during a virtual cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The PM joined the meeting from the Gono Bhaban and the cabinet members from secretariat.

"No one will be allowed to enter government offices without a mask. There will be large cautionary posters at the entrance of offices," Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam told journalists after the meeting.

"We've given the instructions... to all levels including social, organisations and formal institutions," he said.

The instructions came amid repeated calls from the PM to always wear face masks outdoors. She also stressed this at the last cabinet meeting on October 19.

Yesterday, she asked the authorities concerned to be prepared to tackle the possible second wave of Covid-19 this winter.

The National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC), formed to advise

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

WHY IS THE KILLER FREE WHEN MY SON'S IN THE GRAVE?... Salma Begum, mother of Rayhan Ahmed, holds up a sign that aptly portrays her sense of acute injustice during a protest outside Sylhet city's Bandarbazar Police outpost. Rayhan was allegedly tortured to death in the early hours of October 11 at the outpost. This photo was taken before noon yesterday.

PK Halder yet to return, cites fever as reason

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proshanta Kumar Halder, director of International Leasing and Finance Service Limited (ILFSL), who allegedly embezzled crores of taka from NBFI, did not return to Bangladesh though he was supposed to yesterday.

ILFSL's lawyer Mahafuzur Rahman Milon informed the Attorney General's office and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) via e-mail on Saturday, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

In a letter to ILFSL on Friday, PK Halder wrote, "I am feeling feverish and physically unwell. With the present Covid-19 situation, this looks like a symptom and it will be unwise and not possible for me to travel at this point of time."

He added that he will inform the authorities

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

PROTECTING HILSA 25 cops hurt as fishermen attack them

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

At least 25 river police personnel were injured when fishermen attacked the law enforcers conducting a drive against hilsa catching and selling at Chandpur's Laxmirchar in the Meghna yesterday.

The injured took primary treatment at Chandpur 250-bed General Hospital.

The government has imposed a 22-day ban on catching, selling, hoarding,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Shun unethical journalism

PM tells journos at DRU programme

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged journalists to write reports based on facts and perform their duties to the country and the nation, shunning unethical journalism.

"We want neutrality in journalism, reports based on facts, dutifulness towards the country and the nation. Unethical journalism cannot bring any good for any country as it causes harm... let there be no unethical journalism," she



said.

The prime minister said this virtually while speaking at the Silver Jubilee programme of Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) held at InterContinental Hotel. She was speaking from her official residence the Gono Bhaban.

She urged all to maintain the neutral policy of journalism for the welfare of all.

The prime minister called upon the journalist community of the country to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



'We can make things better'

*Biden, Obama slam
Trump's Covid response;
president blames rise of
cases on more testing*

AGENCIES

An energized Joe Biden and Barack Obama on Saturday accused Donald Trump of a massive screw-up in his handling of the coronavirus, but the US president remained ebullient despite trailing in polls with 8 days to go until the election.

More than 56.5 million Americans have already voted in person or by mail, a pace of early voting that could lead to the highest voter turnout rate in more than a century, according to data from the US Elections Project.

Trump plowed through three campaign rallies in one day, targeting separate battleground states as he sought to close the gap with Biden.

But the president's efforts have been inescapably overshadowed by a grim reality: the US set a daily record for new Covid-19 cases for the second day in a row on

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

The majority has returned to KSA

*Biman, Saudia ferried over 31,000
stranded Bangladeshis in 31 days*

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines and Saudi Arabian Airlines have ferried over 31,316 stranded Bangladeshi migrant workers to their workplaces in Saudi Arabia in 31 days since September 23.

Managing Director and CEO of the country's national flag carrier Mokabbir Hossain yesterday said they have arranged four special flights to Saudi Arabia late this month for those who returned to Bangladesh from the Gulf country on airlines other than Biman and Saudia.

Different airlines that used to operate flights to Saudi Arabia via stopovers in their respective countries are yet to resume operations to the country from Dhaka amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The return of Bangladeshi migrant workers, who had come home on airlines other than the two national flag carriers, to Saudi Arabia became uncertain as Biman and Saudia did not issue any new tickets amid the huge rush of their own passengers to return to their places of work.

Around 55,000 Saudi-bound Bangladeshi expatriate workers have been waiting to return to their workplaces in Saudi Arabia since resumption of regular flights to the Gulf country from September 23.

Talking to The Daily Star, MD and CEO of Biman said they have already carried 14,316 Bangladeshis to Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam through 40 flights.

A top official of Saudia yesterday said they have already carried over 17,000 Bangladeshi expatriates to different destinations in Saudi Arabia through 48 flights since September 23.

Sources at both Biman and Saudia said that Bangladeshi workers with return tickets will have no problem reaching the Kingdom as there are

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

TOGETHER WE GROW

We are a brave nation, we know how to fight. Although our challenge against global pandemic will continue, we will create a brighter future together. This is our promise to you on this 21st anniversary.

The Premier Bank Limited

Two held in connection with rape in Noakhali

STAR REPORT

Two people were arrested in cases filed over rapes of a teenage girl and housewife in Noakhali's Begumganj and Hatiya upazilas yesterday.

Besides, two others were sent to jail on charges of raping a housewife in Kishoreganj yesterday, and a quack was sued for rape in Gazipur on Friday.

Quoting the case statement, police said a youth named Sumon broke into the victims' room in Noakhali's Begumganj around 2:30am Saturday.

He then raped her at gunpoint. When the victim's parents went to the room, Sumon, who also the victim's neighbour, managed to flee.

Later, her father filed a case against Sumon, who was arrested yesterday, said Md Kamruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Begumganj Police Station.

In another incident, a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

We Deeply Mourn



Barrister Rafiq-Ul Huq
(1935 - 2020)

We grieve the passing away of former Attorney General of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. A luminary, a respected lawyer and a noted philanthropist.

Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.
May his soul rest in peace.

TRANSCOM GROUP