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US ELECTION 2020

Biden makes late push for red states

Set to travel to Georgia, Iowa; Harris to travel to Texas; Trump narrows his focus on 7 battleground states

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden's campaign is making a late push into deeper-red states in the final week before the 2020 election, chasing a number of possible paths to 270 electoral votes while President Donald Trump focuses on defending a narrower set of states that he won four years ago but where polls show he now trails.

Biden is set to visit Georgia and Iowa this week, while his running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, travels Friday to Texas -- all states Trump won handily in 2016.

Trump's campaign, meanwhile, is narrowing its focus. With so many states to defend, Trump's campaign is banking on those states' electorates being Republican enough that he can win them with limited effort. Trump is focusing his efforts on seven states he won four years ago, as well as Minnesota and Nevada, which he hopes to flip this time around.

Trump's struggling reelection campaign received a boost Monday with the confirmation of his latest Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett, tilting the top body to the

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People carrying away a teacher, who was protesting in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital and had fallen sick. A significant number of such teachers, who were on a hunger strike demanding the creation of a panel for the interviewing primary assistant teachers, were taken to different city hospitals yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Facebook commits to safe online environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Facebook has expressed its commitment to improve user safety and security and take steps to protect its users, especially women and children, from internet abuse.

The social media giant highlighted the steps it has taken in this regard at a virtual briefing for journalists and media personnel yesterday afternoon.

Organised by Benchmark PR, the briefing was led by Amber Hawkes, head of Safety Policy (Asia-Pacific) at Facebook.

Speaking at the briefing, Amber said creating a safe environment where over two billion people can share and connect is core to Facebook's business model.

She said people would stop using their services if not protected.

Through a presentation, Facebook claimed that it spent more than \$3.7 billion on safety and

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Khulna court delivers verdict in three days

Man sentenced to jail for a year in drugs case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Khulna court yesterday delivered a verdict in a drug case within just three working days. A record for the country.

Khulna Metropolitan Magistrate Md Atikus Samad announced the judgment in presence of the accused in the courtroom.

Md Samrat, 26, the lone accused in the case, was sentenced to one year of imprisonment for possessing drugs -- six months for having cannabis and another six months for possessing yaba tablets.

Samrat, of Khulna city's Labanchara area, was also fined Tk 10,000. If he fails to pay, he will have to serve one month more in jail.

Shahara Irani Pia, assistant public prosecutor, told The Daily Star that if the drug cases were disposed of quickly, the backlog of cases will be reduced to some extent.

Saiful Islam, president of Khulna Lawyers Association, said the delivery of the judgement in three working days made history.

According to court sources, police arrested Samrat on December 13 last year

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Serve people of the villages: Bangabandhu

October 28, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU CALLS UPON DOCTORS TO GO TO RURAL AREAS

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman says today that he wants qualified doctors to go to rural areas so that the people living in villages receive the benefits of modern treatment. Talking to a delegation of Salimullah Medical College students at the Gono Bhaban, he says it is unfortunate that the doctors after receiving higher education abroad at the expense of the people take up jobs in foreign countries, totally forgetting their responsibilities towards their brethren at home.

He says this is one of the reasons that prompted his government to impose restrictions on going abroad for higher education. The prime minister says the Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine would be upgraded and fully equipped with all necessary equipment to enable it to impart the best possible medical education at home. This would preclude the need for doctors to go abroad. But he adds that this policy would not come in the way of people going for specialised research.

FAO WILL EVALUATE CROPS IN BANGLADESH
 The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has formed a special

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Two held for raping ninth-grader

Case filed over rape of college student in Barishal

STAR REPORT

A case was filed yesterday in connection with the rape of a college student in Barishal's Agailjhara upazila on October 24 while Rangpur, police arrested two persons on Tuesday in connection with the gang-rape of a ninth-grader on Sunday.

Also in Narayanganj Sunny, 18, a resident of Shiacchar area under Sadar upazila, was arrested for raping a minor girl.

According to the case statement of Barishal, the accused -- Nayan Mondol -- took the 19-year-old girl to a deserted place in Bagda and raped her.

Sensing the matter, four people went to the spot and took both the rapist and the girl to a nearby school where the four

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Moon richer in water than once thought



AFP, Paris

There may be far more water on the Moon than previously thought, according to two studies published Monday raising the tantalising prospect that astronauts on future space missions could find refreshment -- and maybe even fuel -- on the lunar surface.

The Moon was believed to be bone dry until around a decade ago, when a series of findings suggested that our nearest celestial neighbour had traces of water ice in permanently-shadowed craters at its polar regions.

Two new studies published in Nature Astronomy

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Soumitra Chatterjee on ventilator

STAR REPORT

Veteran Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee has been put on



ventilator support as his condition worsened further on Monday, said doctors at a Kolkata hospital.

Doctors said his kidneys started malfunctioning, reports The Hindustan Times.

"His health has deteriorated. We have given him ventilation support. The gastrointestinal bleeding, though we managed to stop it, has had some repercussions on the rest of the body."

"His platelet count was pretty low. The bleeding, the medication and dehydration have taken a toll on his kidney functions, as a result of which his urea creatinine levels have

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Sundarbans to open for tourists early November

UNB, Dhaka

The Forest Department is set to soon reopen the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and a Unesco World Heritage Site, to tourists after seven months of closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tourists are expected to be allowed to enter the Sundarbans from early November, authorities said.

Meanwhile, tour operators have already completed preparations after receiving the green signal and many have started pre-booking tourism spots.

According to sources

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Small stalls sell basic meals to people of low income group on the west side of Secretariat Link Road in the capital. Such makeshift stalls, occupying pavements, are thriving these days as many have fallen into hard times due to income loss during the pandemic. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'We must not give up'

WHO chief urges 'fatigued' world to keep fighting as Covid cases surge in Europe, US

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization chief has warned that abandoning efforts to control the coronavirus pandemic, as suggested by a top US official, was "dangerous", urging countries not to "give up".

"We must not give up," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual briefing.

The coronavirus has killed at least 1,160,768 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT yesterday.

At least 43,516,870 cases of coronavirus have been registered. Of these, at least 29,437,300 are now considered recovered.

On Monday, 5,273 new deaths and 428,884 new cases were recorded worldwide. Based on the latest reports, the countries with the most new deaths were India with 488, followed by the United States with 464 and Argentina with 405.

Tedros acknowledged that after months of battling the new coronavirus a certain level of "pandemic fatigue" had set in.

"It's tough and the fatigue is real," Tedros said. "But we cannot give up," he added, urging leaders to "balance the disruption to lives and livelihoods".

He voiced particular concern about the situation in Europe, which in the past week accounted for 46 percent of global cases, and nearly a third of global deaths.

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 28
 Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
 AZAN 4:50 12:45 4:00 5:36 7:15
 JAMAAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:39 7:45
 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION