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US ELECTION 2020

Trump questions integrity of US polls

Says counting late ballots would be 'inappropriate'; Biden preaches unity in Georgia; US early voting tops 70 million

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump questioned the integrity of the US election again on Tuesday, saying it would be "inappropriate" to take extra time to count the tens of millions of ballots cast by mail in his race against Democrat Joe Biden.

While Trump, who trails in national opinion polls, cast doubt on mail-in votes, Biden offered a message of unity in two rallies in the state of Georgia as part of a foray into traditional Republican territory with less than a week left to go before Election Day on Nov. 3.

Early voting, both by mail and in person, topped 70 million on Tuesday, more than half of the total turnout in the 2016 election, according to the US Elections Project at the University of Florida.

Americans are rushing to cast ballots in record numbers as they look to avoid exposure to the coronavirus.

The huge volume of mail ballots - more than 46 million have already been cast - could take days or weeks to tally, experts say, meaning that a winner might not be declared the night of Nov 3, when polls close.

"It would be very, very proper and very nice if a winner were declared

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



NEVER TO BE DETERRED... Almost in his 80s, a farmer carrying the green grass he picked from his cropland to feed cattle at his home. The photo was taken yesterday in Ghatar Char village in Barishal's Babujanj upazila.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Internet to remain slow for 4 days in some areas

Work of upgrading undersea cable to begin tomorrow

RASHIDUL HASAN

Traffic interruption in internet usage will begin from the wee hours of tomorrow in some parts of the country and will continue for four days as cable diversion activities of the i2i is expected to start at that time.

The 3,100-kilometre submarine cable, known as the i2i cable network, also connects Bangladesh's international internet gateway (IIG) operators with Singapore, industry operators said.

"The start of traffic interruption will be from October 30 [tomorrow],

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Delhi to start issuing tourist visas soon

Says Indian envoy as two countries resume flights after 7 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi visitors to India would continue to get tourist visas soon, said Indian High Commission in Bangladesh.

Vikram Doraiswami, Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, said, "We will do everything to provide our visa services [to Bangladeshis] from the highest possible level of the High Commission."

He made the statement at a programme, organised to mark resumption of air communication between Bangladesh and India under the Air Bubble Agreement, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, regular flights between Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries, except China, remained halted since March.

On the inaugural day of air communication resumption, two flights of US-Bangla Airlines operated between Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka and Dhaka-Chennai-Dhaka routes.

Speaking as the chief guest of the programme, the Indian envoy said his country wanted to ensure smooth

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangladesh wants amity with China

October 29, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

FOREIGN MINISTER'S BELGRADE PRESS CONFERENCE

Abdus Samad Azad, the foreign minister of Bangladesh, says today in Belgrade that Bangladesh wishes friendship with China and agreement with Pakistan. Speaking at a press conference during an official visit to Yugoslavia he says he hopes his country's application for membership of the UN would be satisfactorily settled as most of the members of the UN are in favour of it.

He further says that Yugoslavia has assured support to efforts of Bangladesh for internal consolidation as a young country as well as in other matters like establishing normal relations with her neighbours and securing for herself the right place in the United Nations.

REPATRIATION OF 230 BANGALEES BY NOV 8

The first group of 230 Bangalees is to be sent to Bangladesh shortly with the permission of Pakistan President ZA Bhutto, reports the International Committee of Red Cross. Red Cross is making arrangements for their travel to Dhaka before the end of the holy month of Ramadan on November 8. Meanwhile the governors' conference held in Rawalpindi today and presided over by Bhutto orders the border police to stop smuggling of Bangalees into Bangladesh.

ALPP COMPLETES EXAMINATION OF AMENDMENTS

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Two held for gang-raping girl in Ctg

12 more arrested over rape in 4 dists

STAR REPORT

Police arrested two people from Chattogram's Banskhal upazila on Tuesday night for gang raping a 15-year old.

At the same time, around 12 people were arrested on charges of rape - four in Chattogram and four in Thakurgaon and another four in Jashore and Faridpur.

In Chattogram, the arrestee Md Abdul Bashar, 45, and Md Jamir, 35, raped the girl in a paddy field around 10:30pm on Tuesday, said police.

Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of Banskhal Police Station, told The Daily Star,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

'Massive' coral reef taller than Empire State Building found

CNN ONLINE



A "massive" new reef measuring 500 meters (about 1,600 feet) has been discovered in Australia's Great Barrier Reef, making it taller than some of the world's highest skyscrapers.

Scientists found the detached reef, which is the first to be discovered in more than 120 years, in waters off North Queensland while on an expedition aboard research vessel Falkor, ocean

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

23 more die from Covid, 1,492 test positive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-three people died from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release from the Directorate

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 29

Fazr 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



OBLIVIOUS TO DANGER Although battery-run auto-rickshaws are banned on highways, many of them continue plying the Dhaka-Tangail highway on a regular basis, posing serious risks of road accidents. The photo was taken near Savar BKSP recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

'No space for third party'

China rattled by US support for India on border disputes

THE STATESMAN/ANN

A day after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo extended strong support for India's efforts to defend its sovereignty, China yesterday responded by saying that boundary question is a bilateral matter and there is no space for a third party to intervene.

China said that the development of bilateral ties between countries should not infringe upon legitimate rights and interests of a third party and should be conducive to regional peace, stability and development.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

QUESTIONABLE DB RAID 2 witnesses fail to appear before court

Next hearing in fake currency case Nov 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed November 24 for the next hearing in the fake currency case filed against Hotel Bondhu manager Hasan Majumdar and its chef Sohail Rana as two witnesses failed to show up.

The case was filed following a

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
এসএমই এন্ড স্পেশাল প্রোগ্রামস্ ডিপার্টমেন্ট
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী ঘোষিত ২০ (বিশ) হাজার কোটি টাকার সিএমএসএমই আর্থিক প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজের আওতায় ঋণ/বিনিয়োগ সুবিধা

- আপনি কি একজন সিএমএসএমই (কটেজ, মাইক্রো, স্মল এন্ড মিডিয়াম এন্টারপ্রাইজ) উদ্যোক্তা? কোভিড-১৯ এর বিরূপ প্রভাবে আপনার উদ্যোগ/প্রতিষ্ঠান কি ক্ষতির সম্মুখীন?
- তাহলে, মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী ঘোষিত সিএমএসএমই এর জন্য ২০ (বিশ) হাজার কোটি টাকার আর্থিক প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজের আওতায় চলতি মূলধন ঋণ/বিনিয়োগ সুবিধা পেতে আজই আপনার নিকটস্থ ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন;
- প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজের আওতায় ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক সিএমএসএমই উদ্যোক্তা/গ্রাহকদের ৪% সুদ/মুনাফায় অর্থায়ন করা হচ্ছে;
- এতদসংক্রান্ত সার্বিক সহায়তা দিতে ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিটি শাখায় স্থাপিত 'হেল্প ডেস্ক' রয়েছে আপনার পাশে।

প্রণোদনা প্যাকেজের আওতায় সিএমএসএমই ঋণ/বিনিয়োগ পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের এসএমই এন্ড স্পেশাল প্রোগ্রামস্ ডিপার্টমেন্টের প্রবলেম সলিউশন সেন্টারে যোগাযোগ করুন

ফোন নম্বর: +৮৮০২-৯৫৩০২২০, ই-মেইল: gm.smespd@bb.org.bd

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।