

Industries upset as govt decides not to give gas connection to factories outside economic zones  
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**"We will boost connectivity. We say connectivity is productivity. We will boost connectivity on all fronts for development."**  
FOREIGN MINISTER AK ABDUL MOMEN AT A PROGRAMME IN RAJSHAHI



**"He won because the election was rigged."**  
US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP ON JOE BIDEN'S VICTORY



**"I remember watching Michael win those world championships. To get one or two or even three is so hard. Seven is unimaginable."**  
LEWIS HAMILTON AFTER EQUALING MICHAEL SCHUMACHER'S RECORD 7 FORMULA-1 TITLE WINS

TEXTBOOK PRINTING, DISTRIBUTION

## RACE AGAINST TIME

Only 40pc books sent to upazilas so far; NCTB blames delay on Covid-19 crisis; no textbook fest this time



MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government is racing against time to print and distribute a whopping 36 crore copies of school textbooks at the upazila level on time due to severe disruptions to the massive undertaking, caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic delayed the tender process, issuance of work orders, and other necessary tasks related to the printing of such a large volume of textbooks for primary and secondary students across the country.

As a result, the textbook board could dispatch only 40 percent of primary-level textbooks to the upazilas, as of Saturday, said the chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB).

Usually, the NCTB is able to send around 90 percent of the textbooks to the upazilas by mid-November, according to insiders.

Currently, officials and printers are working round the clock to ensure

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Only one of the four people seen here waiting to be served at the General Post Office in Dhaka is wearing a mask around noon yesterday. Despite the government's "no mask, no service" policy at public and private organisations to ward off a second Covid-19 wave, the people are often found disobeying this simple directive.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

INCOMING PASSENGERS

## Covid-free certificates to be made mandatory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to make Covid-19 negative certificate mandatory for every incoming passenger from foreign countries, said Prof Khurshid Alam, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services.

Besides, the DGHS will also set up Covid-19 sample collection booths at quarantine centres in Ashkona Hajj Camp and in Uttara's Diabari, the DGHS chief said while visiting Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

Till now, inbound passengers via air or sea ports with Covid-19 negative certificates are being asked to stay in home quarantine, while those without negative certificates are being sent to two institutional quarantine

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## The last of the legends bows out

With Soumitra's passing, a golden era in Bangla cinema ends



**SOMITRA CHATTERJEE (1935-2020)**

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

The death of legendary Soumitra Chatterjee yesterday brought an end to the last link of the golden era of Bangalee actors, led by the incomparable Uttam Kumar.

If Uttam Kumar, idolised as "guru" by his fans, was the undisputed super star of Bangalee cinema, Soumitra Chatterjee, with his striking presence and naturalist acting, which another great actor

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## Jubo League committee unveiled

Insiders say a few bad apples are there

RASHIDUL HASAN

Almost a year after holding its 7th Congress, Jubo League announced its 201-member committee which includes controversial independent MP Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury, popularly known as Nixon Chowdhury, as a presidium member.

Several other leaders in the central committee of ruling Awami League's youth wing are either related to or have connections with Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's family members, insiders said.

Besides, former Jubo League assistant secretary Sohel Parvez, who was expelled from the organisation after he was

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## Baksal idea totally misinterpreted

PM tells special JS session on Mujib Borso

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman formed Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League to unite the whole nation but the idea was totally misinterpreted.

"What he had said during the constitutional amendment was completely misinterpreted. He had taken an excellent initiative to change the fate of all the people including the poor. But it was spoiled which was very unfortunate," Hasina told the Jatiya Sangsad.

The PM was taking part in general discussion in the JS on the resolution brought to pay tribute to Bangabandhu on the occasion of Mujib Borsho marking the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation.

Earlier on November 9, Hasina, the Leader of the House, placed the resolution in a special session convened by President Abdul Hamid on the occasion of Mujib



Borsho. This was the first time the JS went into a special session.

The JS yesterday unanimously adopted the resolution by voice vote, bringing an end to the session.

A total of 79 MPs from the treasury and opposition benches participated in the five-day discussion on the resolution.

In her speech, the PM said Bangabandhu's sole objective behind the formation of Baksal was to bring smile to the faces of unhappy people.

It was just a five-year programme and Bangabandhu announced it for rapid socio-economic development of the people.

"I believe that if he could implement it in the following five years, Bangladesh would be a developed country by now. But unfortunately he was not allowed to do so."

There was huge criticism of the steps he had taken. And there was also a flurry

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## Babunagari picked as Hefajat amir

Announces a faction; rivals object

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

As a gap is widening within Hefajat-e-Islam, the Qawmi madrasa-based Islamist organisation has picked Junayed Babunagari as its amir in a council held at Darul Ulum Moinul Islam Hathazari Madrasa yesterday.

Moulana Mahfuzul Haque, general secretary of Befakul Madrisil Arabia Bangladesh (a platform of Qawmi madrasas), declared Junayed's name as the amir at the end of the council, which began at 10:35am and continued till 3:30pm.

Attended by 400 people from across the country, the council also selected Nur Hossain Qasemi, principal of Jamia Madania Baridhara Madrasa of Dhaka, as

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## RU journo sent to jail in ICT case filed 5 years ago

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

A Rajshahi University correspondent of daily Jugantor was sent to jail on Saturday in a case filed five years ago under the Information and Communication Technology Act.

Manik Raihan Bappy was arrested at his home in Shibganj on Friday, said Farid Hossain, officer-in-charge of Shibganj Police Station.

A Rajshahi court sent him to jail the next day.

Around 20 journalists of the university formed a human chain at the central library on campus yesterday demanding Bappy's immediate and unconditional release.

Speakers at the human chain said the case filed under the Digital Security Act was a barrier to journalists' freedom of speech.

They said such cases were a threat to the

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Rods, logs and other wooden objects are strewn about on the Dhaka-Demra highway in the capital's Jatrabari. The highway has been widened, but much of the extra space has been taken up by local businessmen keeping their goods on the road.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Samrat siphoned off Tk 220cr

Channelled it to casinos in Singapore, Malaysia, finds ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expelled Jubo League leader Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat, a "kingpin" of illegal casino business in the capital, siphoned off around Tk 220 crore and channelled it to casinos in Singapore and Malaysia between 2011 and 2018.

In a probe into Samrat's ill-gotten wealth, the Anti-Corruption Commission found that he channelled Tk 219 crore to two casinos in Singapore and Tk 48.58 lakh to a casino in Malaysia.

He also "cashed out Tk 121.8 crore" from the casinos, according to the probe report.

On November 12, the ACC filed a case against Samrat for amassing illegal wealth of Tk 2.94 crore. Jahangir Alam, investigation officer of the ACC, was tasked with carrying out the probe.

"We've found that he laundered the money [around Tk 220 crore] abroad," Jahangir told this newspaper yesterday, adding that he submitted the probe report to the ACC.

The commission approved the report and will soon submit to court the charge sheet, incorporating the findings in it.

Earlier on September 13, the Criminal Investigation Department filed a case against Samrat and his close accomplice Enamul Haque Arman for siphoning off Tk 195 crore.

In its investigation, the CID found that between 2011 and 2019, Samrat visited Singapore 35 times, Malaysia thrice, Dubai twice and Hong Kong once.

In those eight years, Samrat's associate Arman visited Singapore 23 times, according to the case statement.

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