

Japan offers

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of the food situation. The meeting held at the secretariat lasts for about four hours.
BANGLADESH DENIES TALKS WITH PAKISTAN
Bangladesh mission sources in New York yesterday categorically denied that there had been any talks between Bangladesh and Pakistan, direct or secret, and firmly maintained that there would be no such talks except on the basis of sovereign equality. They were commenting on Pakistani President Bhutto's interview with the Washington Post in which he said, "Representatives of Bangladesh and Pakistan have been meeting secretly in New York or elsewhere".
Sources: November 17, 1972 issues of Dainik Bangla, Bangladesh Observer and Ittefaq.

Minor found

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Her father Sunil Brato Tripura, of Talipara area in the town, said, "Why would an 11-year-old girl die by suicide? We demand proper investigation into whether it was suicide or a pre-planned murder."
Her uncle Robirash Tripura said Moumita showed them bruise marks a few months ago and said she had been tortured at Ananta's house.
Contacted, Ananta said, "Moumita died by suicide as she had psychological problems."
Md Alauddin, a doctor present during the autopsy, said, "We found no sign of rape or physical assault on the body."

Hospital

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after she had been produced before the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Baki Bilkah with a seven-day remand prayer.
Hospital director Md Niaz Morshed was arrested on November 10 from the capital's National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital, where he was undergoing treatment for paralysis.
The other directors, Abdullah Al Mamun, Sakhawat Hossain, and Sazzad Amin is still on the run.
Eight other arrestees are now on a seven-day remand in the case.
The murder case was filed against 15 people, including the 10 arrestees, with Adabor Police Station.

Indian holy

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Shishir Kumar, government spokesperson for the state of Uttar Pradesh, said the lamps were a stunning spectacle for thousands of visitors.
Photographs of the event showed people gathering to light and look at the lamps, many taking no notice of coronavirus social distancing norms as they celebrated the festival of lights.
A procession of revellers walked five kilometres through the city to the Naya Ghat temple, where fireworks were set off and a laser light show dazzled those watching.
Representatives from Guinness World Records awarded a certificate to Yogi Adityanath, the state's top elected official, after monitoring the ceremony with drone-mounted cameras, said Mr Kumar.
Elsewhere in India, crowds of people were seen filling shopping areas in New Delhi in the days leading up to Saturday – giving the country's business community some hope after months of lockdown but also raising fears that an upsurge of coronavirus cases will follow.
Praveen Khandelwal, general secretary of the Confederation of All India Traders, said: "The past three days have seen a tremendous increase in customer footfall in shopping markets for festival purchases."
Diwali celebrations are significantly scaled down in other parts of the world. In Malaysia, where approximately two million people of Indian heritage live, most revellers have restricted their festivities to small gatherings in the home as the country undergoes its second national lockdown.
Some Hindu temples will hold smaller celebrations due to the country's conditional movement control order (CMCO), and religious leaders have called on families to hold prayer sessions at home.

Erdogan says Cyprus made up of 'two separate states'

AFP, Nicosia
Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday said he favours a permanent division of Cyprus into two states, during a visit to the breakaway Turkish-held north decied as a "provocation" by the internationally recognised Greek-speaking south.
The comments marked a further setback to hopes for an eventual reunification of the Mediterranean island which is split between EU member the Republic of Cyprus, which controls the island's southern two thirds, and the north occupied by Turkey since 1974.



Parishioners wearing protective face masks pray at Grasin square during an open air mass in Nantes, as public masses are suspended during the second national lockdown as part of the measures to fight a second wave of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), in France, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

FM hopeful of signing Teesta deal

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the people of Bangladesh have been waiting to see the early signing and implementation of the framework of interim agreement for sharing of Teesta waters as agreed upon by both governments in 2011.
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi informed that his government is working with all stakeholders in India for the conclusion of the agreement at the soonest possible time, according to a 53-point joint statement that termed the relations between the two countries "a bond transcending strategic relationship".
Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami has conveyed his government's commitment to finding mutually acceptable solutions to all the issues with Bangladesh.
Bangladesh and India are in discussion to hold a water resources secretary-level meeting in December before the minister-level talks between the two countries on water issues, officials said.
The two countries expressed optimism to hold a Joint River Commission meeting this year to discuss water sharing of common rivers.
Momen said the government of Hasina will never sign any deal against the country's interest and its people, but will enhance connectivity with India for a win-win situation for both.
"We will boost connectivity. We say connectivity is productivity. We will boost connectivity on all fronts for development," he said.
Momen said the relocation of Rohingyas from the cramped camps of Cox's Bazar to Bhasanchar in Hatiya was being delayed due to pressures from some international agencies and non-government organisations, our staff correspondent reports.
He was talking to journalists yesterday after visiting Varendra Research Museum in Rajshahi city.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina decided to relocate the Rohingyas to Bhasanchar. Most of them are eager to go there. We are unable to fix the date for the relocation as the process is being delayed because of pressures from some international agencies and NGOs," he said.
He added that the Rohingyas are living in congested camps on 6,800 acres of land in the hills which are prone to landslides. The present site had no jobs to offer the Rohingyas. Also, more and more Rohingyas were getting involved in drug trading and human trafficking.
Bhasanchar is a beautiful place where the Rohingyas can engage in many economic activities like agriculture and rearing of cattle. We want entrepreneurs to build resorts there so that the Rohingyas can get employment opportunity.
He said the government was trying its best to make the relocation as soon as possible dealing with the challenges.
The foreign minister hoped that the new US government would play a strong role against the human rights issues that were violated in the case of the Rohingyas.
"Solid and mature politicians are coming into to the new US government. We hope our bilateral relations will flourish under their leadership. We expect strong US role in Rohingya and climate change issues," he said in reply to a query.
He said the government expects the US to decrease the tariffs for the products they import from Bangladesh.
Bangladeshi businesspeople pay 15.6 percent tariffs while exporting products to the US, whereas the French businesspeople pay only 0.5 percent.
"We pay the highest despite not being a developed country," he said.
The minister ended his two-day visit to Rajshahi through exchanging views with teachers and staff of Rajshahi Government College.

Virus curbs tighten worldwide

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His comments came ahead of a government meeting on Monday to decide whether to extend the new measures, which are provisionally in place until the end of November.
The number of Covid-19 patients in intensive care has soared from just over 360 in early October to more than 3,300, as the country battles a second coronavirus wave along with the rest of Europe.
Demonstrations against the restrictions were held on Saturday across Germany, including one in Frankfurt where police used water cannon.
Meanwhile in Greece, police announced a ban on public gatherings of four or more people, announcing that events and marches set to commemorate a 1973 student uprising would not take place this year.
The anniversary of the revolt against a military junta, considered to have helped restore democracy in the country, is treasured by many Greeks.
Last year it was marked with demonstrations by more than 30,000 people in Athens and other major cities.
But opposition parties have pledged to proceed with events this year despite the new restrictions.
Greece had on Saturday said it would shut primary schools, kindergartens and daycare centres as its number of Covid-19 deaths crossed a thousand.
In Romania, 10 patients being treated for coronavirus were killed and others were in critical condition after a fire broke out in an intensive care unit in the country's northeast late Saturday.
The doctor on duty, who tried to help the victims, suffered second and third degree burns to 80 percent of his body, the rescue service said.
The cause of the blaze was unclear, the health ministry suggesting the fire could have been caused by an electrical short circuit.
"I express my respect for the heroic

doctor who showed particular courage and spirit of sacrifice," Prime Minister Ludovic Orban said.
Health workers were also hailed in the United Arab Emirates, which granted a 10-year visa to all doctors and infectious disease experts living in the country and fighting the pandemic.
Meanwhile Mexico surpassed one million COVID-19 cases as its death toll, the world's fourth-highest, edged closer to 100,000.
"We probably still need to see the worst," Alejandro Macias, a former national commissioner against the AH1N1 influenza pandemic, told AFP.
Mexico's neighbour the United States is the worst-hit country with more than 245,000 deaths from over 10.9 million cases.
But President Donald Trump has repeatedly downplayed the threat of the pandemic, and few of the at least 10,000 of his supporters wore masks during a weekend demonstration in Washington.
Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro

has also downplayed the virus, despite his country having the second-highest death toll of more than 165,000.
A survey showed that 27 percent of Brazilians feared voting in Sunday's municipal elections because of Covid-19.
In poor countries with little regulatory oversight, more people are turning to licenced microfinance institutions during the pandemic to repay private lenders -- only to find themselves trapped in a cycle of crippling debt.
In Cambodia, tens of thousands of migrant workers have returned from Thailand as jobs have dried up, putting families living paycheck-to-paycheck under strain.
Microfinance has come under fire there for predatory tactics, including targeting rural villages where residents have limited financial acumen.
"Because of Covid, we could not find jobs," farmer Roern Reth tells AFP tearfully, adding that she worries she will lose her house and rice fields.

'He won because the election was rigged'

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the results in multiple states, though without success, and legal experts say the litigation stands little chance of altering the outcome of the election.
Election officials of both parties have said there is no evidence of major irregularities. Democrats and other critics have accused Trump of trying to delegitimize Biden's victory and undermine public confidence in the American electoral process. Before the election, Trump had refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power.
Trump's refusal to concede did not change the fact that Biden was the president-elect, but it has stalled the government's normal process of preparing for a new presidential administration.
The Trump administration's decision not to recognize Biden as the winner has prevented Biden and his team from gaining access to government office space and to funding normally afforded to an incoming administration to ensure a smooth transition.
The federal agency in charge of providing those resources, the General Services Administration, has yet to recognize Biden's victory.
'ABSOLUTELY DISGRACEFUL'
Senator Bernie Sanders, one of the main challengers to Biden for the Democratic presidential nomination, criticized Trump's post-election conduct.
"Trump will have the distinction of doing more than any person in the

history of this country in undermining American democracy. The idea that he continues to tell his supporters that the only reason he may have lost this election was because of fraud is an absolutely disgraceful, un-American thing to do," Sanders told CNN's "State of the Union" program.
Biden has spent days huddled with advisers as he weighs Cabinet appointments, fields congratulatory calls from world leaders and maps out the policies he will pursue after being sworn in on Jan. 20. He is expected to continue meeting with advisers in private on Sunday.
Biden has won 306 votes in the state-by-state Electoral College system that determines the presidential winner, according to Edison Research, far more than the

270 needed to secure a majority. States are in the process of certifying their election results. The Electoral College meets to vote for the new president on Dec. 14.
John Bolton, Trump's former national security adviser turned critic, on Sunday called on Republicans to acknowledge Biden's victory. Bolton last week accused his fellow Republicans of "coddling" and "kowtowing" to Trump as the incumbent despite his defeat.
"I think it's very important for leaders of the Republican Party to explain to our voters, who are not as stupid as the Democrats think, that in fact Trump has lost the election and his claims of election fraud are baseless," Bolton said on ABC's "This Week" program.

Brazil votes in local polls marked by virus

AFP, Sao Paulo
Latin America's biggest economy. Postponed six weeks because of the pandemic, the vote already bears the imprint of Covid-19, which has killed more than 165,000 people in Brazil -- the second-highest death toll worldwide, after the United States.
The authorities are urging Brazil's 148 million voters to bring their own pens, respect social distancing guidelines and disinfect their hands multiple times.
Voters are choosing the South American giant's 5,569 mayors and city councils, with analysts watching to see where the various political camps stand midway to the next presidential elections in 2022.
Bolsonaro heads into the first-round vote weakened by the loss of his political idol, President Donald Trump, in the US election, as well as his own controversial handling of the virus, which he has downplayed as a

"little flu."
But his approval numbers are strong -- more than 40 percent recently -- and he still excels at whipping his hardline base into a frenzy with his social media diatribes.
Bolsonaro flew in early from the capital, Brasilia, to vote in his hometown, Rio de Janeiro. He posed for photos with supporters outside his polling station but did not speak with the press.

25 female

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over planning subversive activities and produced them before a Kushtia court in the afternoon.
The court sent them to jail.

Jubo League

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arrested with a firearm in 2014 in Dhaka Export Processing Area, has been named the organising secretary of the committee announced Saturday night.
His expulsion had not even been withdrawn before he was given the post, sources said.
However, a good number of less controversial men including lawyers, journalists, and former leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League have got places in the Jubo League committee. And many leaders in the previous committee have been left out.
Some of the former student leaders who became members of the committee for the first time are Saifur Rahman Sohag, Joydev Nandi, Monwarul Islam Masud, Shamsul Kabir Rahat, Abdul Aziz, Aditya Nandi, and Delwar Shahzada.
Lawyer Syed Saidul Haque Sumon, well-known as a social media influencer, has become law secretary while at least six journalists have become members in the committee.
Surprising many, Ashikur Rahman, son of founding chairman of Bangladesh Jatiya Party Nazir Rahman Manzur, was made an executive committee member.

Several Jubo League leaders alleged that there was nepotism in some cases.
The previous committee had 151 members, but 50 posts have been created to accommodate more leaders in the new committee.
Bangladesh Cricket Board director Sheikh Sohel and FBCCI President Sheikh Fazle Fahim were given berths in the 27-member presidium committee. Five posts in the presidium committee remain vacant.
The most talked-about member of the new committee is Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury alias Nixon Chowdhury.
Nixon defeated Awami League nominee and presidium member Kazi Zafrullah in Faridpur-4 in 2014 and 2018 national elections.
Nixon Chowdhury recently hit the headlines by engaging in a dispute with local administration officials during the upazila elections.
The Election Commission sued the independent MP on October 15, accusing him of intimidating and threatening the government officials and breaching the code of conduct during the by-election for the post of chairman of Charbhadraran Upazila Parishad on October 10.
Nixon is currently out on bail in the case.

On November 23, 2019, 50-year-old Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash, son of Jubo League founder Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni, was elected the organisation's chairman at a session of Jubo League's 7th Triennial Congress.
Sheikh Hasina entrusted Prof Parash, who teaches English literature at a private university, with salvaging the tarnished image of Jubo League even though Parash was never involved in political activities.
Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil, president of Dhaka North City AL, was elected the general secretary.
Jubo League was founded in 1972 with the objectives of alleviating poverty and establishing the rights of the young people. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's nephew Moni was tasked with uniting the country's young people.
On October 20, 2019, Jubo League Chairman Omar Faruk Chowdhury was relieved of his post amid allegations of corruption.

Algerian media chief jailed for 5 years

AFP, Algiers
The head of Algeria's top private media group was jailed for five years yesterday, the company said, the toughest sentence handed to a press mogul in the North African country.
Anis Rahmani, chief of the Ennahar group, is the latest figure close to the clan of former president Abdelaziz Bouteflika to be handed a heavy penal sentence.
He was accused of recording and broadcasting a telephone conversation with a senior intelligence officer, resulting in a range of charges including "defamation of the army" and recording communications without consent.
"Five years' prison for Anis Rahmani in the Colonel Ismail case," Ennahar said in a tweet, adding that he had also been fined 100,000 dinars (\$770).
Rahmani, whose real name is Mohamed Mokaddem, was arrested in February on offences including "breach of exchange regulations", "blackmail to gain undue advantage" and "holding foreign bank accounts", according to several Algerian private media outlets.
He has admitted to recording the conversation but denied any criminal wrongdoing.
Established in 2012, Ennahar TV broadcasts nationwide and claims to be "the first news channel in Algeria".