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# DMP sacks 10 cops for dope test failure

Seeks explanation from 8 others

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Dhaka Metropolitan Police has come down hard on its members who have failed the dope tests and were found to be involved in drug trading or collaborating with such traders.

There have been widespread allegations against many law enforcers about their involvement in the drug trade and abuse.

As part of punitive measures against such crimes, the DMP has dismissed 10 of its members and issued orders to eight others, seeking explanations as to why they should not be sacked.

If the eight fail to give satisfactory responses within a week, they will be dismissed as per departmental rules, said Walid Hossain, deputy commissioner (media and PR) of the DMP, yesterday.

The process to terminate over 50 others who failed the tests was underway, DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star recently.

In a meeting at the Police Headquarters on November 15, Shafiqul said the tests were carried out on 78 members of the DMP who showed drug addiction symptoms, such as drowsiness, and 68 of them tested positive.

According to the DMP, of the 68, seven are sub-inspectors, one is sergeant, five are assistant sub-inspectors and five nayeeks, while 50 are constables.

The 10 dismissed and the eight who were served orders are among the 68.

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People selling goods beside rail lines, risking their lives, in the capital's Tejgaon Railway Station. The sellers do not leave the place even when a train is crossing the area. Accidents may happen anytime due to their callousness. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Amnesty Int'l concerned at construction of 5-star hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International yesterday shared a statement stating its concern about the construction of a five-star hotel in the Chittagong Hill Tracts that could lead to the forced eviction of the Mro people, an indigenous tribe, from their ancestral lands.

"Immediately abandon the construction of the luxury hotel on the Chimbuk-Thanchi route and ensure that any further construction or establishment on the indigenous land respects the free prior and informed consent of the community," said the statement signed by the organisation's Head of South Asia Omar Waraich.

"The construction of the luxury hotel on the route between Chimbuk and Thanchi will eventually wipe out villages and forcibly evict a large number of the Mro people. Community members said that the hotel and the

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# Biden to name first Cabinet picks tomorrow

Trump's bid to overturn polls result stumbles as judge scraps Pennsylvania lawsuit

REUTERS, Washington

Joe Biden will announce the first of his Cabinet picks tomorrow, a senior aide said yesterday, as the president-elect moves ahead with planning for his incoming administration while President Donald Trump showed no sign of abandoning his long-shot bid to overturn the US election.

Since Biden was declared winner of the Nov. 3 election two weeks ago, Trump has launched a barrage of lawsuits and mounted a pressure campaign to prevent state officials from certifying their vote totals, suffering another emphatic legal setback on Saturday in Pennsylvania.

Ron Klain, Biden's choice to be White House chief of staff, reiterated their camp's call for the Trump administration - specifically a federal agency called the General Services Administration - to formally recognize Biden's victory to unlock resources for the transition process.

"I hope that the administrator of the GSA will do her job," Klain said, referring to GSA chief Emily Murphy.

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## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### British proposal for Bangladesh-Pakistan talks

November 23, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

LONDON OFFERED AS NEUTRAL ZONE FOR PEACE TALKS British Foreign Secretary Sir Alex Douglas Hume has offered London as "neutral ground" for a peace meeting between Bangladesh and Pakistan. He tells Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at a meeting today that Britain wants to see relations between the two countries normalised as soon as possible. He explains Britain doesn't want to become involved as mediator in any summit but is prepared to offer a venue. Abdus Samad Azad arrived in London on November 21, 1972 for talks on East-West relations, particularly China's policy towards Bangladesh and the affairs of the sub-continent. Britain's attitude towards the sub-continent is that Bangladesh, Pakistan and India should be left to settle their problems without outside intervention. Sir Alec also says that Britain is prepared to support Bangladesh's bid to join the United Nations.

**BHUTTO FOR TALKS WITH MUJIB BEFORE RECOGNITION** The Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto has reiterated his stand that there must be a meeting between him and Bangabandhu before the question of recognition of Bangladesh can be taken up. Talking to newsmen Bhutto claims that Bangladesh needs such a

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# British Airways Dhaka-London direct flight to resume after 11 years

RASHIDUL HASAN

British Airways, one of the world's leading airlines, is going to resume its operations from Dhaka after a recess of 11 years, sources at the Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

Mohibul Haque, senior secretary of the ministry, told The Daily Star, "British Airways once operated its flight from here. They have again applied for resuming its operation on Dhaka-London-Dhaka route and we will give them permission."

The senior secretary also said that Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh would formally submit British Airways' application to us and then we would allow them to operate their regular flights from Dhaka.

After continuing its regular flight for over three decades, British Airways suspended its Dhaka-

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# World's deepest diving pool opens in Poland



AFP, Mszczonow

A 45.5-metre (150-foot) deep diving pool with artificial underwater caves and Mayan ruins, the world's deepest such structure, opened near Warsaw this weekend.

The complex, named Deepspot, even includes a small wreck for scuba and free divers to explore.

It has 8,000 cubic metres of water -- more than 20 times the amount in an ordinary 25-metre pool.

Unlike regular swimming pools, Deepspot can open despite coronavirus restrictions in Poland because it is a training centre that offers courses. A hotel with rooms from which guests will be

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# Israel pounds Gaza after rocket attack

REUTERS, Gaza

Palestinian militants fired a rocket into Israel, drawing Israeli air strikes in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli military said yesterday.

There were no casualties reported on either side of the border. Israeli police said the Gaza rocket fired on Saturday night damaged a factory in the southern city of Ashkelon.

The Israeli military said its aircraft struck in response against several military sites belonging to Hamas, the Islamist armed group that

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 23

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-21 7-00  
JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Cops find no trace of rape of NGO staffer

Submits to court enquiry report relating to BGB case

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday submitted an enquiry report before a court over a defamation case filed by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) against a female NGO worker in Cox's Bazar.

In the report, police claimed that no incident of rape of the female NGO worker by any BGB man had occurred, as no such evidence was found in the woman's medical report.

The woman was a worker of Hnila office of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) in Teknaf upazila.

A BGB official in the upazila filed the TK 100 case with a Cox's Bazar court. Before framing charges, the court asked police to submit a report on November 22. In response, police yesterday submitted the enquiry report, said BGB lawyer Sajjadul Karim.

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Asma Begum works in a cookware factory in the capital's Shyampur area. Along with male workers, she has been engaged in this work for eight years. She earns around Tk 10,000 a month and contributes the amount to run her family. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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# G20 pushes for 'equitable' Covid vaccine access

Reaffirms support for debt-laden poor countries

AFP, Washington

G20 nations yesterday pushed for ensuring equitable distribution of coronavirus vaccines worldwide and reaffirmed support for debt-laden poor countries as the pandemic led to further closures in parts of the world.

With cases surpassing 12 million in the United States, the highest in the world, many Americans were nonetheless heading to airports to travel for next week's Thanksgiving holiday despite health officials' warnings to stay home.

Some US states were imposing new restrictions, including California, where a 10 pm to 5 am curfew was taking effect.

On the opposite side of the Atlantic, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson plans to announce that restrictions across England are to end on December 2 as planned, his office said.

But the lockdown will be followed by a return to a three-tiered set of regional curbs.

Britain has suffered more than any other country in Europe from the coronavirus, with more than 54,000 deaths from 1.4 million cases.

In the Middle East, Iran announced it had shut non-essential businesses in over half its cities and towns for up to two weeks and introduced movement restrictions.

The antibody therapy approval in the United States offers some hope for those infected, though a relatively small number of doses will be available in the coming weeks.