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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The scourge worsens amid pandemic

ASK data says 205 women killed by their husbands this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pandemic and the subsequent lockdown led to more cases of domestic violence, said speakers at a virtual discussion organised by Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday.

Incidents of domestic violence are rarely reported in the media, with only the most extreme cases finding coverage, but even the scant reporting showed a large spike since the beginning of March.

Statistics presented by ASK show the rise of reported cases from 29 in March to 81 in July.

Dowry-related violence also rose from 167 last year to 184 this year -- this number however goes only up till October.

In addition, according to ASK data, 205 women were murdered by their husbands this year.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, pointed out that the lockdown has provided clear proof that women are not safe in their own homes.

"Through our work we found out that during the lockdown more women reported being victims of domestic violence and many new cases were of those who had not been victims before. Once the lockdown was lifted, the

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Marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, rights activists and general women demonstrated by bringing out a torch procession during an event, under the banner of Feminists Across Generations, also known as FemGen Alliance, with the slogan "Mukhtir Michhil" or "March for Freedom". The photo was taken yesterday on Satmasjid Road in the capital's Dhanmondi area. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

White House co-op 'sincere'

Says Biden, presents security and foreign policy team

AGENCIES

President-elect Joe Biden said Tuesday that communication from the Trump administration to help with his transition has been "sincere" since the General Services Administration ascertained his election win on Monday.

"Immediately, we've gotten outreach from the national security shop to just across the board," Biden told NBC News' Lester Holt in his first interview as President-elect.

"And they're already working out my ability to get presidential daily briefs, we're already working out meeting with the Covid team in the White House and how to not only distribute but get from a vaccine being distributed to a person able to get vaccinated."

"So I think we're gonna not be so far behind the curve as we thought we might be in the past," he added.

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Foreign minister, secy test positive

Trip to OIC meet in Niger cancelled

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen have tested positive for coronavirus just before their scheduled visit to Niger to attend the foreign minister-level meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

They were tested as required before the overseas travel and found positive Tuesday night. They had no symptoms before the test, according to the foreign ministry.

As per the doctor's recommendations, they are now staying isolated at their residences.

A foreign ministry statement read that the scheduled visit to Niger by AK Abdul Momen and Masud Bin Momen has

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Mega-shark raised its young in nurseries



AFP, Paris

The largest sharks ever to have roamed the oceans parked their young in shallow, warm-water nurseries where food was abundant and predators scarce until they could assume their title as kings and queens of the sea.

But as sea levels declined in a cooling world, the brutal mega-predator, *Otodus megalodon*, may have found fewer and fewer safe-haven coastal zones where its young could safely reach adulthood, researchers reported in *The Royal Society journal Biology Letters* yesterday.

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Mob beats 2 'robbers' dead in Narsingdi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

An angry mob beat two escaping "robbers" to death in Narsingdi's Shibpur upazila early yesterday.

Among the dead is Sohel Mia, 30, a resident of Kamalpur village in Kishoreganj's Kuliarchar upazila. The identity of the other deceased couldn't be confirmed immediately.

Quoting villagers, Inspector (investigation) Abul Kalam of Shibpur Model Police Station said a group of 10-15 robbers, armed with local weapons, robbed cash and gold jewellery from the house of one Harun in the upazila's Joynagar village around 1:30am.

Alerted by night guards about the fleeing robbers, a group of locals in the neighbouring Murgiber village intercepted them around 3:30am. At one

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangabandhu asks Adamjee workers to increase production

November 26, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

EXPEDITE REPATRIATION

The governments of Bangladesh and India regretted Pakistan's failure to comply with the joint Indo-Bangladesh proposal to repatriate all families of Bangladeshi nationals in Pakistan purely on humanitarian grounds, according to a foreign ministry announcement in Dhaka today. Earlier, the two governments had announced their decision to repatriate all families (children and women) of Pakistani civilian internees and prisoners of war now detained in India.

In response, the government of Pakistan announced its decision to permit as a first step 10,000 Bangalee women and children to leave Pakistan for Bangladesh. The two governments have requested Pakistan to inform the Swiss Embassy in Islamabad of the travel arrangements of families of Bangladeshi nationals from Pakistan at the earliest possible time.

BANGABANDHU ASSURES ADAMJEE WORKERS
 Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today urges workers of Adamjee Jute Mills to increase production and assures them that he would personally look into the problems of the mills. A large crowd of Adamjee Jute Mill workers came to

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Hindu families living in fear of land grabbers

Local influential tries to drive them away from own land

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Three Hindu families, with members who fought in the Liberation War, are now living in fear of attacks by land grabbers in Biroi village of Gafargaon, Mymensingh.

The families are facing threats of eviction from their ancestral lands.

On September 28, the criminals assaulted the family members and beat them up. Some of the family members then fled the area. They have come back recently with police protection.

Paritosh Chandra Singha, 60, said his family and the families of his two brothers have lived in their ancestral land all their lives. Four of his family members were freedom fighters.

"After the Liberation War, we exchanged 27-decimal of land out of a 51-decimal plot with a neighbour named Rajab Ali," said Paritosh.

Around 15 year ago, Rajab's son Abdul Awal Bacchu sold the land to a local influential person named Mostafa Mia, 40.

Immediately after taking possession of that 27-decimal land, Mostafa started

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37 killed as bus, truck crash in Brazil

AFP, Sao Paulo

At least 37 people were killed and 15 injured yesterday when a bus and a truck crashed in southeastern Brazil, police said.

The bus, which was carrying workers at a textile factory, collided with the truck early in the morning on a highway outside the town of Itaguai, in Sao Paulo state, police said.

The death toll, initially reported as 32, was expected to rise further, state police said in a statement.

"We know there are more victims in the wreckage of the vehicles,

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Construction workers working on a high-rise building without any safety gear, ultimately risking their lives, in Mohammadpur's Tikkapara area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Virus load soars in US

LA shuts restaurants; Europe eases lockdowns

AGENCIES

Officials warned Americans to stay home for the Thanksgiving holiday as a restaurant dining ban in Los Angeles was due to come into force yesterday, while parts of Europe eyed looser coronavirus lockdowns over the festive season.

The three-week order in America's second-biggest city will begin as California faces record Covid-19 cases, and its health secretary urged people to avoid large family gatherings.

"It's as important to say 'no' even when it comes to the closest people in our family," doctor Mark Ghaly said, adding he had barred his mother from a planned celebration.

The US government's health protection agency has, for the first time, called on Americans not to travel for an annual holiday which usually sees families get together over turkey, yams and cranberry sauce.

With the US confronted by soaring numbers of deaths and new cases, plans to deliver a vaccine to Americans are accelerating.

More than six million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine will be available in the first week after it is cleared for emergency use -- which is likely next month -- and 40 million by the end of December, according to officials.

There were more than 86,000 coronavirus hospitalisations in the US on Tuesday, a record, as well as 167,000 new cases and more than 2,000 deaths.

As America grappled with its crisis, some European

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 26

Fajr	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