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POWER SUPPLY FAILURE

30,000 govt websites go offline

More than 30,000 government websites of the Bangladesh National Portal were inaccessible since yesterday morning due to an electrical fault in the Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited server.

The problem arose when the inverter of the BTCL's server burnt, said officials of the government's Access to Information (a2i) project and BTCL.

Arfe Elahi, chief technical officer of a2i, told The Daily Star yesterday, "BTCL's power supply was cut off around 9:45am today [Sunday]. We have most of our servers under BTCL and we couldn't run those servers on without the power connection. There is no problem with the portal or the server."

"We are working with our full team to reconnect the servers. It will take the whole night to fix it. More than 30,000 government websites have been shut down," he added.

It marks the second time in two weeks that government servers have gone down. Last month, 484 government-run websites were suspended, including 62 sensitive websites like those of the Bangabhaban, Prime Minister's Office (PMO), cabinet and different ministries, due to overload of information in the server.

Since the disconnection of power supply to BTCL's servers in Moghbazar, the websites of various ministries,

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BIWTA knocking down illegal structures in Old Dhaka's Shoari ghat area yesterday. Inset, men of Dhaka-7 MP Haji Selim are demolishing the structure of "Modina Water Tank" there before the drive. Selim allegedly occupied the land.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

EVICION DRIVE

Haji Selim's unauthorised structures torn down

Associates of lawmaker Haji Mohammad Selim had preemptively torn down parts of an illegal structure that he had allegedly built ahead of yesterday's eviction drive by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority in Old Dhaka's Shoari Ghat.

The Dhaka-7 MP allegedly occupied the land and put up a signboard of "Modina Water Tank" there, locals said, adding that his associates had torn down parts of a warehouse and some water tank replicas in the area.

Led by its Executive Magistrate Mahubul Jamil, a BIWTA team tore down other portions of the structure, built illegally by encroaching on the land of the river during the drive.

Locals said associates of Haji Selim took away goods from the warehouse so that the goods were not damaged during the drive.

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BUSINESS

Move to beef up rice stock

The government may import up to five lakh tonnes of rice to replenish the country's depleting food stocks and tame the soaring prices of the staple, a food ministry official said.

The Directorate of Food has already floated a tender to buy 100,000 tonnes of parboiled rice from the international market. Meanwhile, the government placed an order for 50,000 tonnes of rice last week and plans to purchase another 100,000 tonnes from abroad soon. "We will buy more rice from the international market instead of depending too much on local millers," Food Secretary Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum said yesterday.

STORY ON B1

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Cabinet meeting held

December 7, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CABINET DISCUSSES FOOD
Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today presides over the cabinet meeting held at the secretariat in Dhaka. The meeting, which lasts two and half hours, discusses the food situation including prices of food grains and certain other problems in the country. The meeting also reviews the implementation of certain decisions taken earlier by the cabinet.

TRILATERAL TALKS ESSENTIAL FOR POWS SETTLEMENT
The Indian External Affairs Minister Swaran Singh categorically states today that a trilateral discussion between Bangladesh, India and Pakistan is essential for a settlement of the prisoners of war issue but the continued non-recognition of Bangladesh by Pakistan is delaying a solution. Swaran Singh makes this statement while opening a debate in the Lok Sabha on the international situation.

CURFEW AT TEJGAON
A 15-hour long curfew was imposed yesterday at Tejgaon Industrial Area and Nakhpara in the city to conduct a search in the locality. During curfew in the areas the police recovered huge amounts of arms and ammunitions. Meanwhile, in a massive drive against anti-social elements in the last two days, the city police arrested 48 persons from different parts of the city.

PROCEDURE OF DISINVESTMENT

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PCJS member shot dead in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A member of Parbatya Chattogram Jubo Samity was shot dead at his home in Baghaichari upazila early yesterday.

Ratan Priyo Chakma alias Bidhan, 34, was at his home in Pakujekhara village with his wife and three children when the assailants broke the front door and shot him dead around 2:00am, police claimed.

Bidhan was a member of Rupokari union committee of Parbatya Chattogram Jubo Samity (PCJS), which is an associate body of Jana Samhati Samity's MN Larma faction.

PCJS President Gyano Priyo Chakma in a press release said the Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samity (PCJSS) was involved in the murder.

He added that a group of about five men attacked Ratan's house and killed him and demanded

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Giant claw to be sent to space to collect debris



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The European Space Agency will be sending a huge claw into space in order to remove buildup of space debris that has been accumulating around the planet.

The ClearSpace-1 mission will target the Vespa (Vega Secondary Payload Adapter), which was left in orbit after the second flight of Vega in 2011.

The agency is using a Swiss start-up, called ClearSpace SA, to perform the task. It is expected to launch its mission in 2025.

"ClearSpace-1 will demonstrate the technical ability and commercial capacity to significantly

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14 Rohingyas, 2 traffickers detained in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Rab members yesterday detained 14 Rohingyas and two alleged human traffickers from Habibur Rahman Chattar of Sylhet's Dakshin Surma upazila.

The Rohingyas, seven of them minors, entered Bangladesh from India illegally with the help of the traffickers, said ASP Kamruzzaman of Rab-9.

"We've found four identity cards of Indian Rohingyas camps. They might have planned to mix with Bangladeshi locals or to go to the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar," the Rab official said.

A case will be filed against the traffickers, he said, adding that the Rohingyas would be sent to Cox's Bazar refugee camps.

Two held over rape

STAR REPORT

Police arrested a man early yesterday on charge of raping a minor girl in Cox's Bazar and another man was arrested on Saturday allegedly for raping his daughters in Khagrachhari.

The arrestee in Cox's Bazar is Gura Miah, 40, a resident of Ghonar Para area in the district town.

Police said both the victim and the accused are neighbor. On Friday evening, the four-year-old girl was playing near her residence. At that time, Gura Miah took the girl to his residence luring her to give gift and raped her.

Returning home, the girl shared the incident with her family members, said Sheikh Munir Ul Giyas, officer-in-charge (OC) of

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 7

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5:15	12:45	3:45	5:19	7:00
JAMAT	5:50	1:15	4:00	5:22
				7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Different kinds of fish are being caught in the Buriganga as its water is less murky. Fisherman Arshad Mia was seen busy fishing in the river near the Sadarghat Launch Terminal on Saturday. Fishermen are getting good catches now and each of them can sell their catch for Tk 2,000 to Tk 3,000 daily.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

COVID VACCINE IN INDIA

Pfizer seeks urgent approval

China prepares large-scale rollout of vaccines as UK rollout set to begin

AGENCIES

Pfizer Inc has applied for emergency use authorisation of its coronavirus vaccine in India, media said yesterday, the first to do so in a country with the world's second-highest number of infections.

The US company, whose vaccine was recently approved by the British government, has written to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), CNN-News18 reported citing a government source.

Officials at the DCGI and the health ministry did not respond to requests for comment. A government official, however, told Reuters that no application had been received as of Saturday night.

Pfizer could not immediately be reached.

Indian officials have said they are pinning their hopes mainly on locally tested vaccines instead of those developed by Pfizer and Moderna Inc.

The Pfizer shot needs to be stored at minus 70 degrees Celsius (-94 F) or below, temperatures that most Indian cold storages cannot reach.

India has reported more 9.57 million Covid-19 cases, behind only the United States, with nearly 140,000 deaths.

In China, provincial governments are placing orders for experimental, domestically made coronavirus vaccines,

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