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## AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASES HC hearing on appeals may start soon

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court is expected to start soon the hearing on the death references and appeals against the verdict of the August 21 grenade attack cases, as the paper books have already been prepared and appeals accepted for hearing.

The files relating to the sensational cases have been placed before Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain recently for taking necessary decision, an official of the HC told The Daily Star on December 4, requesting anonymity.

He said the chief justice may now assign an HC bench for hearing and disposing of the cases.

Contacted, Law Minister Anisul Huq told this correspondent that paper books of August 21 cases have been readied, and now the HC is supposed to start hearing of the death references and appeals.

He said it might be difficult for the HC to hold hearing on such big cases during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, as most of the HC benches are performing judicial functions virtually using information technology.

"Nevertheless, let us see whether the High Court can start hearing of the cases as soon as possible," the law minister added.

A paper book, which contains all the details of a case, trial proceedings, evidence, order and verdict, is necessary for the HC to hear and dispose of a death reference or an appeal.

If a lower court sentences a person to death in a case, its judgment is examined by the HC through hearing arguments for confirmation of the death sentence. The case

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2



A cyclist making use of the newly painted cycling lane on one of the capital's biggest and most iconic streets, Manik Mia Avenue. Dhaka South City Corporation has been making separate lanes for the safety of cyclists. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



## FORBES LIST Hasina 39th most powerful woman in the world

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been ranked 39th on Forbes' list of the most powerful women.

Angela Merkel, Christin Lagarde and Kamala Harris have been ranked first, second and third respectively.

Queen Elizabeth II has been ranked 46 in the list.

Hasina, the president of ruling Awami League, is the longest-serving prime minister of Bangladesh. It is her fourth and third consecutive term in office.

She plans to focus on issues such as food security, SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

## PENNSYLVANIA POLLS RESULT US SC refuses to overturn Trump's loss

AFP, Washington

The US Supreme Court has dealt the latest blow to Donald Trump's effort to overturn his election loss when it denied his allies' attempt to block the certification of votes in key state Pennsylvania.

The nation's highest court, which includes three Trump-appointed justices out of nine, did not explain its decision, and none of the members expressed dissent.

More than a month since the November 3 election, Trump still refuses to concede to Democrat Joe Biden -- who has a seven million-vote lead -- and continues to make baseless claims of fraud.

Trump and his allies have filed dozens of lawsuits in several key states, almost all of which have been thrown out by the courts.

One of them, brought by Republican congressman Mike Kelly, challenged the legality of mail-in ballots in Pennsylvania, a crucial battleground state.

Biden carried Pennsylvania in November's vote, four years after Trump won the state.

After the case was rejected by the state

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

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

### No threat can stop war criminals' trial: Samad

December 10, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### USSR, CHILE FOR BANGLADESH'S EARLY ENTRY

The Soviet Union and Chile today call for the speedy recognition of the lawful aspiration of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as regards its admission to the United Nations. It is mentioned in a joint communique issued today in Moscow at the end of the four-day visit to the Soviet Union of President Salvador Allende of Chile. The Bangladesh reference is identical in content to those in recent communiqués signed by the Soviet Union with Bulgaria and Hungary after high-level exchanges. **SAMAD'S REPLY TO BHUTTO** Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today reiterates the government's determination to put the people responsible for genocide in Bangladesh on trial. Those who organised the genocide scheme and were linked with committing the genocide should be tried under the Bangladesh laws and in accordance to the Geneva Convention, he adds.

Referring to Bhutto's threat to try the innocent Bangalees stranded in Pakistan, the foreign minister asks the world conscience to consider Bhutto's speech as part of the scheme of Pakistan rulers to wipe out the Bangalee nation. He asks those who are questioning the trial of war criminals in the name of Geneva

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



## DHAKA AIRPORT 250kg bomb found at 3rd terminal site

It was probably buried there during 1971 war, says security official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 250-kilogramme bomb was found buried at the construction site of the third terminal of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

Workers first found the cylinder-like bomb about three metres deep when they were excavating for construction work of the third terminal around 9:00am, said a high-placed official of the airport's security department.

"It is a live bomb weighing 250kg. There are explosives inside of it. It is usually called a general-purpose bomb," the official said, wishing to remain anonymous.

HSIA Director Group Captain AHM Touhid-ul

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

## Nasa unveils plan for 'gateway to the rest of solar system'



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa has revealed the priorities for the Artemis II mission, which will take the first woman and the next man to the moon.

This includes bringing back 85 kilograms of lunar samples from the surface and sub-surface of the moon, 21 kilograms more than was originally collected by the Apollo missions.

The samples collected could contain evidence of water and other chemicals, which could help scientists develop plans for mission into deeper space.

Nasa also aims to establish an Artemis base

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

## Kamal Ibne Yusuf dies from Covid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Vice Chairman and former Law maker Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf died from Covid-19 yesterday. He was 80.

He breathed his last at Evercare Hospital Dhaka around 1:00pm, Syrul Kabir Khan, an official of the BNP chairperson's press wing, told The Daily Star.

He left behind his wife, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Yusuf, a former MP from Faridpur-3, was taken to the coronary care unit of the private hospital in Gulshan on November 22. Later, he tested Covid-19 positive. He had also been suffering from lung complications for a long time, said family members.

Yusuf joined the BNP in 1979 after the party's

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

## COVID PANDEMIC 24 more die, 2,159 infected in a day

UNB, Dhaka

Amid rise in Covid-19 infections in Bangladesh, health authorities yesterday reported 2,159 new cases in 24 hours, pushing the country's total tally to 484,104.

Besides, 24 more people died from the disease during the period, raising the death toll to 6,930.

The mortality rate, however, is still at 1.43 percent, said the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

So far, 405,966 patients -- 83.86 percent -- including 4,772 new ones in the last 24 hours have recovered.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



### PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 10

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
 AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00  
 JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Passengers of a speedboat in Mawa sitting in close proximity, with many not wearing masks and some wearing the face coverings improperly. The lack of adherence to health guidelines among the general public amid fears of a second Covid-19 wave has become a common sight. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Indian farmers to step up protests

Reject govt offer to amend new farm laws

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's farmers yesterday rejected the government's proposal to amend three controversial laws and said they would step up protests seeking withdrawal of these laws which they said would harm their economic interests while helping big food retailers.

Farmers have been demonstrating since late last month over reforms enacted in September that loosened rules around the sale, pricing and storage of farm produce, that had protected farmers from an unfettered free market for decades.

In the proposal sent earlier to 13 agitating farmer unions, the Indian central government yesterday promised a written assurance for minimum support prices, allowing farmers to go to court to resolve disputes instead of a sub-divisional magistrate and scrapping of the Electricity Amendment bill, which they opposed.

"The farmers have rejected the government's proposals," Darshan Pal, president of Krantikari Kisan Union, told reporters after the meeting of over 30 farmers' unions.

Farmers leaders said they would intensify nationwide protests from Saturday that would include boycott of the leaders of Modi's ruling party, blocking of national highways and picketing at toll plazas.

Expressing their anger towards some large domestic corporations and retailers, including Reliance Industries and Adani Enterprises, farmer leaders said they would boycott the products and services of these companies.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2