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SHAH CEMENT

'I will accept ... if I win'

In a threat to US democracy, Trump says he might not accept election result if he loses

AFP, Columbus

Donald Trump yesterday said he would accept a "clear" presidential election result but reserved the right to launch a legal challenge, casting the United States into uncharted political waters and his campaign deeper into disarray.

As Trump's closest allies scrambled to row back debate-stage remarks that called into question the peaceful transfer of power, the 70-year-old populist dangled conditions for his acceptance.

"I will totally accept the results of this great and historic presidential election... if I win," the Republican nominee told cheering supporters in Delaware, Ohio.

"Of course I will accept a clear election result, but I will also reserve my right to contest and file a legal challenge in the case of a questionable result."

"I will follow and abide by all of the rules and traditions of all of the many candidates who have come before me," he added.

The final 2016 presidential debate on Wednesday was dominated by Trump's refusal to say he would recognize a victory by Democrat Hillary Clinton, 68, who he accuses of conspiring to rig the vote against him.

That stance is unprecedented in modern US political history and has elevated fears of post-election unrest.

Although Trump looks set to lose the election, his

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Republican US presidential nominee Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton during the third and final 2016 presidential campaign debate in Las Vegas yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

RU student found dead near dorm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi University student was found dead in a gutter of Nawaab Abdul Latif Hall yesterday.



Motalab

Police suspected that it was a murder.

The deceased, Motalab Hossain Lipu, 22, was a second-year student of mass communication and journalism department. He was the son of Badar Uddin of Mukimpur village in Jhenidah's Harinakundu.

Amir Jafar, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, who visited the spot, said he found injury marks in the head, both hands and thighs of Lipu.

Blood was oozing from his left ear, he said, adding, "We consider it as a case of murder. It has been committed in cold blood."

Enamul Haque, physician of Rajshahi Medical

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AL to promote leaders close to grassroots

HASAN JAHI D TUSHER

The ruling Awami League plans to strengthen the party base through the council by giving prominent positions to leaders who have close ties with the grassroots leaders and workers.

AL insiders said the party high-command wants to focus on strengthening the party keeping the next general election in mind.

In the last few years, the AL's focus was on strengthening relationships with friendly countries and that was why, they think, the party could not focus on strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level.

As relationships had reached a certain level, the party leadership now thinks it is time to focus on the grassroots, sources said.

AL insiders said General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam was busier with

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CONTAINING MILITANCY

Govt moves to form regional taskforce

AL declarations may incorporate the plan

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The government has made a fresh move to form South Asian Taskforce to contain militancy and extremism.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam told The Daily Star last night, "We have already discussed regional cooperation on this issue [the taskforce] in various platforms. If Saarc summit takes place, we might come up with the announcement of forming South Asian Taskforce."

Recently, at an international conference, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the Bimstec leaders to find the mentors, masterminds, abettors, financiers, arms suppliers and trainers of militants and extremists. She also said they must be prepared to take strong actions against militants and their supporters.

The state minister said, "It is the job of a political party to implement its agendas and we are no exceptional. As this provision is included in the party declaration, we will certainly implement it and we have already started working on it. The time demands this sort of platform."

The AL is going to make its declarations during the upcoming council incorporating the formation of the regional platform. The party in its declarations would vow to curb militancy and have "zero tolerance" for extremism and stress the need for strengthening regional cooperation among South Asian countries.

Many militants cross borders to carryout their activities. Just a few days after host Pakistan postponed the 19th Saarc Summit, Nepal urged Saarc member states to ensure that their territories were not being used by militants for cross-border criminal activities.

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SCHOOLBOY MURDER

2 more accused killed in 'gun battle' with Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two more accused in a schoolboy murder case were killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion in Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga early yesterday.

The dead are Sabuj Hossain, 23, of C&B area in Chuadanga town and Shakil Hossain, 21, of Darshana town in the district. The two were accused in the murder case of Mahfuz Alam Sajib.

With them, three of the six accused in the case have been killed in "gunfights" with Rab in the district.

Maj Monir Ahmed, deputy director of Rab-6 in Jhenidah, said a Rab team launched a drive in Shantipara area of the upazila around 2:45am on information that a group of criminals were holding a meeting there.

Sensing the presence of Rab members, criminals opened fire on Rab men, forcing them to fire retaliatory shots. At one stage, the criminals fled the scene.

The Rab team later searched the area and found the bodies of Sabuj and Shakil. The law enforcers recovered a shooter gun,

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She is never lost for words!

Girl, 4, speaks seven languages including Chinese, Arabic



MAIL ONLINE

A four-year-old girl literally stunned audiences when she spoke seven languages fluently on a TV show.

The video of Bella Devyatkina is now wowing people all over the world after she easily switched languages.

The young talent participated in the Russian reality TV show 'Udivitelniye Lyudi' (Incredible People), impressing judges in Moscow with her remarkable language skills.

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ALLEGED WAR CRIMES

New Jamaat chief Maqbul faces enquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal has launched an enquiry into allegations of war crimes against new Jamaat Ameer Maqbul Ahmad.

The 70-year-old Jamaat-e-Islami leader took oath as the party chief on Monday. He had been the party's

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 21

Fazr Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:50	12:30	4:00	5:36
7:15	5:25	1:15	4:15
5:41	5:41	7:45	

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A RARE SIGHT

A flock of painted stork flying over the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong. The globally-endangered bird is sighted in the country's coastal zone, especially in Chittagong, during the winter. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

ATTAINING SDGs BY 2030

Early marriage of girls could make it hard: UNFPA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Early marriages threaten to keep Bangladesh from achieving the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with 59 percent girls getting married here before they reach 18, according to a UN Population Fund report released yesterday.

Apart from child marriage, the UNFPA in its State of the World Population 2016 report warned against child labour and other practices that undermine girls' education, health and rights, key factors in attaining the SDGs by 2030.

"Practices that harm girls and violate their human rights - starting at age 10 -- prevent them from realising their full potential as adults and from contributing to the economic and social progress of their communities and nations," the UNFPA said in the report.

The adolescent fertility rate is as high as 113 per 1,000 live births in Bangladesh.

Pregnancy has long-term negative health effects on adolescent girls, and too many girls thus succumb to maternal mortality and morbidity. It is also a major reason for high gender-based violence, experts say.

Though girls' enrolment in primary schools is nearly universal in the country, enrolment in secondary schools stands at 69 percent with 47 percent dropout rate, which is 10 percent more than boys.

School dropout denies them skills and job opportunities as found in official data. Only 36 percent women participate in formal employment, far less than men's 82.5 percent.

"Leaving girls and women behind means the world

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