



A demonstrator throws a molotov cocktail at security forces during clashes at a rally against President Nicolas Maduro's government in Caracas, Venezuela, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump health care reform

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Their defections mean that the bill has no chance of even getting a vote on the Senate floor unless Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell decides to make significant changes to woo skeptics back into the fold.
"Republicans should just REPEAL the ObamaCare now & work on a new Healthcare Plan that will start from a clean slate. Dems will join in!" Trump tweeted after Lee and Moran made their opposition known.
In a statement McConnell acknowledged "regrettably" that his effort had failed. But he was giving up.
"So, in the coming days, the Senate will vote to take up... a repeal of ObamaCare with a two-year delay to provide for a stable transition period," he said, without setting a date.
"Inaction is not an option," added a White House spokesperson, speaking

on condition of anonymity. "We look forward to Congress continuing to work toward a bill the president can sign to end the ObamaCare nightmare."
Meanwhile, Trump blamed Democrats and a few holdouts in his own party yesterday for the collapse of the latest Republican effort to repeal and replace ObamaCare.
"We were let down by all of the Democrats and a few Republicans. Most Republicans were loyal, terrific & worked really hard. We will return!" Trump said in a tweet yesterday morning.
As I have always said, let ObamaCare fail and then come together and do a great healthcare plan. Stay tuned!" he added.
UNWORKABLE
Over the weekend, the bill, after Senate vote to proceed on the bill, after Senator John McCain, 80, underwent surgery to

remove a blood clot above his eye and said he would recuperate at home in Arizona for at least a week.
But McCain's absence is now a moot point.
Several Republicans had already expressed concern that the new bill could slash funding for Medicaid, the health insurance program for the poor and the disabled.
The new bill would gradually roll back the program, a move that some Republicans warn could lead to millions losing coverage.
The latest defections also show that conservatives are frustrated that the new bill does not repeal the ObamaCare taxes.
Democratic reaction was swift.
"This failure is proof" that the core of this bill is unworkable," said top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer.

AL MP assaults

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least a BA degree to become the chairman of the governing body of any of the 100 colleges but Shipon does not have that degree.
"He became the governing body's president with a forged BA certificate. After knowing this, I spoke to the authorities of the National University and gave a DO letter to make Rabbi Islam the president," Azim said.
On Monday, Azim said, when Rabbi went to the UNO office to discuss about some issues regarding the college, Shipon threatened to kill him.

After knowing the matter from Rabbi, he went there, the MP said.
"Yes, I slapped him and then he [Shipon] admitted to threatening Rabbi," Azim said.
Asked about the HC stay order, the MP said he was not aware of it. "He [Shipon] might have done this with fake documents," he added.
"What sort of disciplining is this? How can assaulting someone this way be regarded as disciplining?" asked Shipon.
Asked about the allegations of fake certificate and threatening Rabbi,

Shipon said he was fully distracted. Contacted, Abdul Hye, an ABIL president, said he heard of the incident, but didn't get any written complaint yet.
"Once I get the complaint, I will take measures after proper investigation," he said.
Hye, also AL lawmaker of Jhenidah-1 constituency, said "Assaulting someone can't be any solution whatever offence he might have committed. Physically assaulting someone can't be considered gentlemanly."

Now erosion

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to the higher authorities for necessary arrangements," he said.
In Faridpur, the Padma and Aritra rivers were receding gradually, but sufferings of people in char areas were increasing due to waterlogging and erosion.
Harna Mia Sarkar Kandi and Omad Ali Dewan Kandi areas are under serious threat of erosion due to strong current of the rivers.
As of yesterday, around 30 acres of farmland was devoured by the rivers,

affecting around 585 families.
In Jamalpur, the flood situation has improved remarkably as the Jamuna was flowing 2cm below the danger level at Bahadurabad Ghat point.
Around 45,000 families and 226 houses in seven upazilas of the district were affected by the flood.
Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya visited different affected areas in Lalmonirhat and distributed relief materials among the flood victims.

The lightbringer

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six children. To make ends meet, Safia joined a toed in the area. Her children dropped out of school and began working.
Perhaps it is at this juncture that the importance of knowledge dawned on her. Two years later, Safia underwent training at the directorate of children and women affairs and started running a mass education centre and launched Shapla Pathaghar with the motto, "Reading books enlightens, not reading leads to darkness."
"After my training, I started my mass education programme. I began to teach 100-120 students in batches, two in the morning and two during the evening," she said. "But not all of them could afford all the needed materials so I began to gradually collect the required books. I also began to amass books on different topics such as the Liberation War and many novels and story books," she added. Thus, began her library, proving to be an invaluable resource for the area. Safia never took money from anybody for the books. She saves from the money her children provide her and buys the books. Sometimes library-goers give her money to procure more books. On November 10, 2012, Safia finally received a certificate of government registration under the Directorate of Public Library. From 2013 till 2015, she got books from the government. Last year though, she did not receive any.
A recent storm ravaged Safia's hut, leaving holes in the roof with kafia using bamboo in many places to keep the house standing. Her children are often concerned about her well-being,

as she lives alone, but they realise the importance of her work. "My mother used to stay with my younger brothers. But recently, he passed away. After that I asked her to come and live with me but she refused," Safia's eldest son Selim Hossain said. "My mother says the house is full of my brother's memories so she cannot leave it behind. She has also been running the library for years and she says she gets a lot of joy out of seeing young boys and girls going there and reading," he added.
A regular visitor, Mohammad Sajeed, has been coming to the library for five years. "There may not be many books but there are a lot of good books from many great authors. However, there are more old books than new ones. If there are newer books and the facilities improve, the library will draw more readers," he said.
Nowadays, the library has around 30 regular readers with more than 500 books to serve them. Readers now borrow the books and take them home as there is no place inside the library to sit and read. Some college students also come to the library.
"Shapla Pathaghar is made out of tin. While the numbers of books isn't bad, the area it is situated in, has many people who do not read or cannot read. When we go for inspection, we sometimes find five to seven readers and sometimes none at all," the Librarian of Narayanganj District Public Library, Mosharraf Hossain, said.
However, he added that the fact that Safia has been running and maintaining a library without proper educational qualification for so many years should itself be reason for gratitude. She is a role model," he said.
Safia Begum is indeed a role model,

It was not

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it was not a case of abduction and they were trying to hear it from an activist.
"Police told us that they would file a case if we do not acknowledge it."
"In response, we told police that Farhad Mazhar gave his version in judicial statement before a magistrate." She said they told detectives to find out through investigation if anything other than abduction had taken place.
Farida, however, declined to say what Farhad Mazhar said after seeing the CCTV footage captured in Khulna where it was seen the writer was moving aimlessly between 4:41pm and 6:44pm on July 3.
Around 11:30pm that day, law enforcers found him on a Dhaka-bound bus of Hanil Paribahan at Noapara in Jessore, more than 18 hours after he had reportedly gone missing. He later told police that the abductors released him around 7:30pm.
His wife Farida filed an abduction case with Adarbor Police Station.

On July 4, while submitting his judicial statement, the writer said several unidentified men had forced him into a microbus and blindfolded him soon after he came out of his Adarbor residence that day to buy medicine.
Minutes before the interrogation started yesterday, DB Joint Commissioner Abdul Baten during a press briefing at the DMP Media Centre said, "Farhad Mazhar was not abducted, there was no abduction in this incident."
Replying to a query, Baten also said Farhad Mazhar's wife filed the case based on the writer's plea call. If anybody misleads police with providing false information and files false case, it is a punishable offence under section 211 of Penal Code.
"We will check whether any action can be taken in this regard," the official added.
Hours after Farhad reportedly went missing, his wife at a press conference claimed she received a phone call from Farhad at 11:30pm on July 3 to 35 asking her to arrange Tk 30 to 35 lakh to be paid as ransom.

WB conference

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On current trends, Dhaka will have more than 30 million inhabitants by 2030. The World Bank believes that the contribution of a productive city of this size could make Bangladesh's economy more robust. It is argued that Bangladesh's becoming a high-middle income country depends crucially on the success of this mega agglomeration.
Throughout its history, Dhaka has grown mostly in an organic way without adequate planning and with poor implementation of whatever was planned. But the eastern fringe of Dhaka represents a major economic opportunity that is not readily available in other big cities of South Asia.
The objective of the conference is to discuss strategic options to utilise this opportunity, and transform Dhaka from one of the most chaotic and least livable cities in the world into a dynamic and attractive urban agglomeration.
The conference is aimed at drawing lessons from the successes of other global cities that have undergone a radical turnaround process, and seeking ideas from experts, practitioners and leaders

on the strategy and implementation.
World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia Martin Rama will set the stage for the discussion on the new paradigm for the eastern fringe of Dhaka, while Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister Khader Mosharraf Hossain will deliver the keynote speech.
Former Delhi minister Sheila Dikshit will share "Delhi turnaround" story and former dean of Pudong Planning and Design Institute Zhu Ruolin and former Shanghai vice-mayor Zhao Qizheng will tell the "Pudong miracle" story.
Noted economist and researcher Hossain Zillur Rahman, two Dhaka city corporation officials, secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Kamal Abdul Nasir Chowdhury, Prime Shamsul Alam, member of general economic division of Bangladesh Planning Commission, and Buot Prime Shamsul Hoque and Oxford University Prof Anthony Venables, among others, will also take part in the conference.

Vaccination stopped

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quoting the workers.
Many other parents, who work throughout the day, thought "taking their kids for vaccination would be waste of time, he said.
"Despite this, we recommended taking actions against the health workers as they did not inform their higher authorities about the matter," he said.
Several residents of Tripura Para, however, rejected the allegations.
Somacharan Tripura's eldest daughter 10 years, 14, was vaccinated around 10 days ago. He said health workers used to take them on a regular basis. "But they stopped coming more than seven years ago. So, my other children could not be given any vaccine."
Somacharan's four-year-old son Uzwal became sick around 10 days ago with symptoms including fever, rash in body and breathing problem. He is now recovering at a hospital.
Pradip Kumar Tripura's eldest son Anil Tripura, 16, was also vaccinated when he was a child. But his other two

brothers Saiken, 9, and Munna Babu, 7, were never vaccinated.
"We live in an extremely remote area. If the health workers don't come to us then we could never know about the dates and procedures of the government's vaccination campaign," said Pradip.
Asked whether there was any superstition among the locals about vaccination, he said, "It's false. It's true that there were so many children in this area could have been vaccinated and why such incident had not happened before?"
Several other locals echoed his views.
Contacted, Dr Alaudin Majumder, director (health), Chittagong, said, "I think, it's a case of sheer negligence by the field-level health workers. They did not visit the area at all."
In the north-eastern area in the district might also have been left out of the government's immunisation programme, he said, adding that, "We should take lessons from the Tripura Parliament."



SI Moinul Haque and ASI Motiur Rahman

2 cops

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The robbers also abducted the driver and helper of the truck and released them after extorting Taka three lakhs for their release," the DB OC said.
Onion trader Md Mokibur Rahman filed a case with Solonga police station without mentioning any names. The DB police took charge of investigation one day later.
"During investigation we found the accused police officers involved in looting and extorting readers. As they were found guilty in police investigation they have been arrested," the DB OC said.
The arrestees were produced before the judicial magistrate's court, Sirajganj on Monday afternoon showing them arrested in the case filed by the onion trader.
Judicial Magistrate Md Shariful Islam sent them to jail rejecting their bail prayer. Bimal Kumar, inspector of Sirajganj court said.
The accused police officers have been suspended.

Traffic chaos

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During a visit to the spot on Monday morning, this correspondent saw vehicles, mostly buses, blocked the central reservation gap in front of Khamarbari gate. There was a queue of vehicles on Khamarbari Road.
"At first, I got stuck in a jam at the set of light at the north-eastern part of the Khamarbari roundabout for 10 minutes. After crossing it, I faced another hurdle as some minibuses coming from Mirpur-10 intending to go to Farmgate blocked the gap," said Moshin Hossain stuck in the jam with his car.
"The traffic police deployed at the point seemed to be callous and took no effort to ease the bottleneck," he said, adding that police do not take action against bus drivers who violate the rules.
"I am already fed up. This congestion at the gap would not have happened if the traffic police had taken proper action," said Moshin.
An ambulance of Shishu Hospital, which was coming from Agargaon, was stuck on Sangsadda Road.
It wanted to make the free left turn, which was blocked. It had to wait about 10 minutes to make that turn.
Blocking left turns is a regular phenomenon at the roundabout, especially during rush hours, said locals.

hand signals," the officer said requesting not to be named.
The officer said only five traffic policemen manage the roundabout.
If the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue was less congested, the situation at the roundabout would be a little better during rush hours, the officer said.
Rickshaw is another problem. Even though they drive them out again and again, they always return."
The roundabout is quite dangerous at the southern end, said a motorist. Vehicles on India Road often have to dodge vehicles trying to go to Rajshahi. Even cutting into their way, the problem is further complicated as many people carriers and smaller vehicles go against traffic on Indira Road.
This often leads to jams and fender benders.
Vehicles going against traffic were seen on Khamarbari Road, adding to the traffic chaos.
The roundabout has a few blind spots as well, a motorist said. Vehicles from Manik Mia Avenue going towards Farmgate cannot properly see vehicles exiting the roundabout to go towards Sangsadda Bhaban Avenue, especially at night. They cannot properly see vehicles coming from Sangsadda Bhaban Avenue either.
Liton Kumar Saha, deputy commissioner of Dhaka traffic western zone, said they have enough officials deployed at the roundabout and that sometimes traffic jams could happen due to heavy traffic flow.
He said movement of VIPs in the area sometimes causes traffic jams.
VIPs frequent the area as the parliament, homes of some parliamentarians, and a number of government offices are there.

Fossil of bird-like

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concluded it was a different species because of its shorter and more robust skull.
"The delicate bones of these small feathered dinosaurs are very rare. We were lucky to have a critical piece of the skull that allowed us to distinguish Albertavenator [Alberta hunter] as a new species," said Dr David Evans, of the Royal Ontario Museum, who led the research.
"We hope to find a more complete skeleton of Albertavenator in the future, as this would tell us so much more about this fascinating animal."
An artist's impression of what the dinosaur would have looked like is depicted here. It would have looked a lot like a modern bird but very much bigger and with short, ineffective "wings".
It had serrated teeth and was related to the velociraptor, a dinosaur made famous by the Jurassic Park movies.
The dinosaur was given the scientific name Albertavenator curriei in honour of Dr Phil Currie, a renowned Canadian palaeontologist.
Its fossilised remains were found in the 1980s near the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Ontario, but it was only recently identified as a separate species.
The discovery underlined the importance of re-examining museum collections.

Haji flights

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26-07-2017, Civil Aviation Minister Raed Khan Menon told reporters following an inter-ministerial meeting at the Secretariat yesterday.
The Hajj and Eid-ul-Azha are likely to be observed on the first week of September.
Menon also added that any irregularities in selling of air tickets or other matters related to Hajj would not be tolerated. The ministry will take stern actions against any individual or group is found misbehaving/ticketless, he said.
"We have taken all out-operation to make our Hajj flights operate smoothly and safely," Menon said.
Biman, for the first time, is issuing booklets for Hajj pilgrims' departure and post-Hajj flights before the pilgrims' departure from Bangladesh. It will reduce the hassles pilgrims face on their way back home.
Also for the first time, Biman flights will operate directly from Dhaka to

Madina, along with regular Dhaka-Jeddah flights, the minister said.
The Hajj flights will carry 3,599 passengers which is about half of the number of Hajj pilgrims. The rest will be flown by Saudi Airlines.
Biman's post Hajj flights will begin from September 6 and end on October 5. Some 4,230 pilgrims would be flown Hajj this year under government management.
A total of 177 flights, including 144 dedicated Hajj flights will take the pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate Hajj activities on July 22 at Ashkona Hajj office.
In 2016, a total of 1, 01,758 Bangladeshis performed Hajj.
Leaders of Hajj Agencies' Association of Bangladesh, representatives of Saudi Arabian Airlines, officials of religious affairs ministry and Biman Bangladesh Airlines, among others, attended the meeting.