

## Nasa names Mars

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eventful history,” they commented.  
“A huge thank you to everyone at Nasa for making it happen.”  
Nasa said it was the farthest it had ever seen a rock roll while landing a spacecraft on another planet.  
Nasa geologist Matt Golombek, who helped with the Insight mission, was responsible for the rock’s unofficial nickname, which will appear on working maps of Mars.  
“I’ve seen a lot of Mars rocks over my career,” he said. “This one probably won’t be in a lot of scientific papers, but it’s definitely one of the coolest.”  
Nasa hopes to one day send manned missions to Mars, most likely in collaboration with private space firms like SpaceX.

## Unmarried

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mentioned before the bridegroom’s name in the “Kabinnama” form.  
It also ordered the authorities to bring changes to the “Kabinnama” form in line with the court directives.  
The bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury delivered the verdict after the petition was filed by rights organisations Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Nari Pakkho and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.  
In 2014, the organisations filed the petition with the HC, challenging the legality of column 5 of “Kabinnama” where the word -- “Kumari” -- is used before the bride’s name.  
In the petition, the rights bodies said the provision of column 5 of the “Kabinnama” was contradictory to the right to privacy and also discriminatory.

Following the petition, the HC issued a rule that year asking the government to explain why the provision should not be declared illegal.  
After holding hearings on the rule, the HC yesterday delivered the judgment.  
After the verdict, Aynun Nahar Siddiqua, lawyer for the petitioners, told The Daily Star that the “Kabinnama” form had been introduced during the regime of Pakistan and it was not amended even after Bangladesh became independent.

“We [Bangladesh] have signed the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women for ensuring equality between the male and female. But the equal right of the female has been curtailed at the beginning of the marriage through the inclusion of the column 5 in the Kabinnama form,” the lawyer added.  
She said the government did not oppose the petition.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder represented the government.

## Country's

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some other high officials on May 6 this year,” said the minister.  
Resuming operations at this airport to economically uplift the people of this region has long been a public demand -- raised especially by small and medium businesses in the area.

The main campus of the university will be set up in Lalmonirhat, while it will have a branch at Ashkona in the capital, the minister said at a press meet held during his visit to the airport on Thursday.

“To make Lalmonirhat Airport operational, three flights a day can be operated from there by December. Bangladesh Air Force has been assigned the responsibility.”

The campus will also house a hangar for aircraft maintenance and repairs as well.

Academic classes, including undergraduate and postgraduate courses, are likely to begin by January. The government has initial plans to set up seven faculties, 37 departments and four institutes, he added.

Jatiya Party Chairman and lawmaker from Lalmonirhat-3 GM Quader, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat, VC of BSMRAAU Air Vice Marshal Fazlul Haque, consultant of BSMRAAU Salman David and other high officials accompanied the minister during the visit.

## Jamalpur DC

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the announcement while briefing journalists at his office yesterday.  
“The newly appointed DC of Jamalpur Enamul Haque is expected to join his post soon,” he said, adding that more than one probe bodies would be formed by the authorities concerned to investigate the incident and the viral video in social media.  
State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain earlier told reporters that Ahmed Kabir would face departmental action after an investigation.  
Two video clips from the incident went viral on Facebook.  
Media reports identified the man in the video as Jamalpur DC Kabir and the woman as a staffer in his office.

The room shown in the video clip is the restroom in the DC’s office.  
Speaking to journalists, Kabir on Saturday denied the allegations brought against him on social media, calling it a “conspiracy”.



Handout aerial picture released by Greenpeace showing smoke billowing from forest fires in the municipality of Candeias do Jamari, close to Porto Velho in Rondonia State, in the Amazon basin in northwestern Brazil, on Saturday. *Inset*, view of fire in the Amazon rainforest, near Abuna, Rondonia state, Brazil.

PHOTO: AFP

# Hundreds of blazes ignite

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topic of concern at the G7 meeting in Biarritz in southern France.

World leaders at the summit have agreed to help the countries affected by the fires “as fast as possible,” French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday.

His remarks come amid an escalating war of words with his Brazilian counterpart Jair Bolsonaro, who he has accused of lying over Brazil’s stance on climate change.

Bolsonaro has denounced what he

calls Macron’s “colonialist mentality.”

**TRADE DEAL AT RISK**  
The fires threaten to torpedo a huge trade agreement between the European Union and South American countries, including Brazil, that took 20 years to negotiate.

Pope Francis yesterday also voiced concern for the rainforest, which he described as a “vital” lung for the planet.

“We are concerned about the vast fires that have developed in the Amazon,” the pope told the faithful at the Vatican.

He urged the world’s 1.3 billion Catholics to pray for the fires to be extinguished as quickly as possible.

The latest official figures show 79,513 forest fires have been recorded in Brazil this year, the highest number of any year since 2013.

More than half of the fires are in the massive Amazon basin, where more than 20 million people live. Some 1,130 new fires were ignited between Friday and Saturday, according to Brazil’s National Institute for Space Research (INPE).

The new data come as protesters plan to take to the streets across Brazil, after thousands held demonstrations in the country and in Europe on Friday.

US President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, both attending the G7 summit, have offered their countries’ assistance in fighting the fires.

“Any help is welcome in respect to the fires,” Brazil’s Defense Minister Fernando Azevedo e Silva told reporters on Saturday.

## Lifesavers on the beach

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Osman, lifeguard supervisor of the project, described a rescue operation his team carried out on July 18.

“Around 6:00 am, one of my team members, Alamgir called me about a boat floating upside down at Sugandha point,” he recounted. Alamgir, assisted by some locals, then recovered four bodies from inside the vessel.

The team was already on high alert after learning from social media the previous night about several trawlers that had gone fishing but didn’t return.

Finding the bodies, they began looking for survivors and found a man lying unconscious two and a half kilometres from the vessel and another one some 8-10 kilometres away. Both of them had survived.

Two days later, they saved two

tourists from drowning at Kalatali beach.

Over the last three years, the team found 17 children lost on the beach and handed them over to the Tourist Police.

Although there is no official data on the number of deaths from drowning in sea, the national annual death from drowning, according to Bangladesh Health Injury Survey 2016, is 14,500.

Aiming to decrease the number of drowning, the CIPRB with help of Royal National Lifeboat Institute trained local young men aged over 18 and appointed them as lifeguards of the SeaSafe.

The seven-day training provided by international experts includes surfing, which is useful for rescue operations up to 10km offshore.

From sunrise to sunset, the lifeguards, in their internationally-

recognised yellow vests, patrol five of the 120-km long beach in Cox’s Bazar. The CIPRB has built three watchtowers at Laboni, Kalatoli and Sugandha.

“Before leaving the beach at sunset, we send out signals for tourists to come out of the water. If people do not listen to us, we inform the tourist police,” Osman said, adding the Bangladesh Coast Guard and local administration provide support when needed.

In 2016, tourist police requested the CIPRB to send a group of lifeguards for guarding a beach area during the “Mohabaruni Snan (Holy Bath)”, a religious ceremony observed by the Hindus.

However, the CIPRB does not consider its interventions adequate. The organisation is keen on working with the government to scale up the services to cover the entire length of

the Cox’s Bazar beach.

Aminur Rahman, deputy executive director of the CIPRB, said he recently met civil aviation and tourism ministry officials to plan a partnership project to extend the lifeguard services in phases to all sea beaches of the country.

If the government develops the project, the CIPRB will provide all technical support, he added.

The perceived safety provided by lifeguards will draw more local and foreign tourists, he said.

Joint Secretary (Tourism) Humayun Kabir said since government wants to develop Cox’s Bazar as a tourist hub, safety is a concern.

“We will work on the issue of drowning at the beach,” he said, adding his department will encourage organisations already working on the matter.

# Trump paints picture of unity at G7 summit

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threatened further escalation in his battle with China.

“I think they respect the trade war. It has to happen,” Trump told reporters.

Asked whether he was having second thoughts, he replied: “I have second thoughts about everything.”

Trump’s spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham, however, told reporters at the G7 summit that the president’s earlier comments had been misunderstood.

“The president was asked if he had ‘any second thought on escalating the trade war with China’. His answer has been greatly misinterpreted,” she said.  
“President Trump responded in the affirmative -- because he regrets not raising the tariffs higher.”

Trump appeared to brush aside French efforts to mediate with Iran yesterday, saying that while he was happy for President Emmanuel

Macron to reach out to Tehran to defuse tensions he would carry on with his own initiatives.

The French presidency said G7 leaders had even agreed that Macron should hold talks and pass on messages to Iran after they discussed the issue over dinner at the summit on Saturday evening, reported Reuters.

However, Trump, who has pushed a maximum pressure policy on Iran, pushed back.

Asked if he had signed off on a statement that Macron intends to give on behalf of the G7 on Iran, Trump said: “I haven’t discussed this. No I haven’t,” he told reporters, adding that Macron and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe were free to talk to Iran.

“We’ll do our own outreach, but, you know, I can’t stop people from talking. If they want to talk, they can

talk.”

**ANTI-G7 ACTIVISTS**  
The Basque resort of Biarritz, which at this time of year usually teems with surfers and sunbathers, has been turned into a fortress for the G7 event with over 13,000 police on duty.

Several hundred anti-G7 protesters staged an unusual protest in southwestern France yesterday, holding “stolen” portraits of Macron which were held upside down in a pointed critique on his policies, reported AFP.

Demonstrators at the so-called “portrait march” were carrying official portraits of the 41-year-old French leader which had been taken down from town halls across the country over the last few months.

The climate and social justice march was organised by environmental activist group ANV COP 21, as well as

two Basque groups Alternatiba et Bizi all of whom were marching under a slogan which pledged to “take down Macron”.

“One, two, three degrees, it’s a crime against humanity!” they chanted as they marched through the narrow streets of Bayonne near the southwestern French resort of Biarritz.  
“We are holding him upside down to show the lack of sense in his policies,” explained a Bizi activist called Mathieu.

G7 summits, gathering Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, were once a meeting of like-minded allies, but they have become a diplomatic battlefield in the Trump era.

“This may be the last moment to restore our political community,” EU Council president Donald Tusk said on Saturday.

## 10 hurt as goons attack Hindu family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 10 people, including children, were injured as miscreants attacked a Hindu family in Patuakhali yesterday afternoon.

Around 50 members of a group called Jahir Bahini allegedly launched an attack on the house of Khitish Majumder’s family at Dashmina upazila’s Thakurer hat area around 5:30pm yesterday.

Khitish Majumder said an “influential group” had been trying to occupy his business establishment in Thakurer hat for several months and around 50 men attacked his home yesterday evening.

“They attacked us with sticks and sharp weapons,” he added.

When locals come to the spot to rescue the family and the attackers fled, he said.

This correspondent tried to reach the leader of Jahir Bahini over phone but could not reach him.

Officer-in-Charge of Dashmina Police Station SM Jalal Uddin said that, on information, a police team rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Additional policemen were deployed at the spot, he said, adding that steps would be taken after proper investigation.

No case was filed till filing the report around 10:00pm yesterday.

## Why still

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judge to hold trials of such cases.

It passed the order while hearing a bail petition filed by Masudul Haque, an accused of a narcotics case. He was arrested with yaba tablets and heroin in the capital’s Bangshal area on December 27 last year.

The court, while hearing the same bail petition earlier, had asked the government to inform it on the progress of issuing the gazette notification.

Yesterday, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told the HC that he already talked to the law ministry about issuing the notification.

The ministry is positive in this regard, he said, adding that he would now talk to the home ministry and then inform the court of the progress.

Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappy told The Daily Star that the HC had granted bail to Masud in the case against him.

Al Faisal Siddiqui appeared for the accused petitioner.

## Raped

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the local arbitration.

In the arbitration, Sumon’s father Montaz Ali beat up the woman in public and broke one of her hands, the victim’s husband alleged.

A rape case was filed with Biral Police station in this connection.

Golam Rasul, officer-in-charge of the police station, said the accused was arrested and the law enforcers would take legal action against him.

About the arbitration, the OC said there was no scope for holding such arbitrations and police were investigating the matter to find out who were involved in it.

The victim was sent to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital for medical tests, he added.

Sub-Inspector Abdul Kader, investigation officer of the case, said the victim did not mention the torture and arbitration in the case statement.

Police, however, found symptoms of torture on her body during primary investigation, he added.

Contacted, Sumon’s father Montaz Hossain, denied the allegation and said they did not hit anybody at the arbitration. He declined to make any further comment in this regard.

Mukul Chandra Roy, chairman of Rajarampur union parishad, was present at the arbitration and slapped the victim for several times, locals alleged. Contacted, he denied the allegations.

**TWO MEN SUED OVER RAPE IN PIROJPUR**

Two men were sued yesterday over the rape of a schoolgirl at Nesarabad upazila in Pirojpur.

One of the accused is Basu Deb Mondal, 21, of Bhadranko village in the upazila, and another is unidentified, said police.

The 15-year-old victim went to a temple to say prayers. On her way back to home, Basu, along with the unidentified man, picked her up and forcibly took her to a nearby guava orchard where they raped her, said the victim’s family.

The victim’s mother filed a case with Nesarabad Police Station accusing the duo, said Motahar Hossain, sub-inspector of the police station.

Police are trying to arrest the criminals, he added.

## Ministry asks DCs

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After independence, the government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman enacted the Bangladesh Collaborators (Special Tribunals) Order 1972 to try the collaborators who abetted the Pakistan forces in the killing of Bengalees.