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Lifesavers on the beach

226 rescued by lifeguards in the Cox's Bazar since 2016



BISHAKHA DEVNATH

As the sun lights up the horizon, Osman Goni starts patrolling the Cox's Bazar sea beach. While waves crash at his feet, his eyes keep searching the distance for anyone who might need help. A team of 26 lifeguards stands ready for his order to rescue people lost in the waves.

Osman and his team of lifeguards of the SeaSafe saved 226 people from drowning in the Bay of Bengal since 2016, when the project launched.

No professional lifeguard services existed in any Bangladeshi beach before the project was implemented by the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB).

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A heavily loaded sand-laden vessel and two passenger-carrying vessels ply the Padma river in dangerously close proximity, risking an accident and the lives of many. The photo was taken at Mymensingh recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Raped, then tortured in arbitration

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A mother of two has first been raped at her home and then tortured at a local arbitration in Dinajpur's Biral upazila, alleged locals.

The victim, housewife of a local Brahmin, was raped by 37-year-old Sumon Ali, of the district's Sadar upazila, around 10:00pm on Friday. Around 2:00am yesterday, Sumon's parents called a local arbitration, termed the victim characterless and tortured her in public, said the victim's family members and locals.

The victim was staying alone at her home, which is located in an isolated area of Biral upazila, as all her family members were out for celebrating Janmashtami. Taking the chance, Sumon intruded into her home and raped the woman, they added.

Hearing the victim scream, locals rushed to the spot and held Sumon.

But he later managed to flee the scene, they said, adding Sumon then attended

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Ministry asks DCs to make lists of Razakars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The liberation war affairs ministry has sent letters to all deputy commissioners asking them to prepare lists of Razakars soon.

The ministry informed it to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Liberation War Affairs during a meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

The committee, headed by Awami League Lawmaker Shajahan Khan, asked the ministry to publish the list through a gazette.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shajahan Khan said at first he raised the demand of preparing lists of the Razakar, Al-Badr, Al-Shams, and Peace Committee members at a meeting of Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council in 2018.

Asked, Shajahan said the purpose of preparing these lists is to identify those families who acted against the country's Liberation War and to inform the new generation about them.

On February 8 last year, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq told parliament that the government had taken an initiative for publishing a list of local collaborators.

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Trump paints picture of unity at G7 summit

Backs British PM over Brexit, sends mixed signals about his trade war with China

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump said yesterday he was getting along well with Western allies at a G7 summit in France, dismissing reports of rifts among leaders.

He backed British Prime Minister Boris Johnson as the "right man" for Brexit and sent mixed signals about his trade war with China.

Johnson and Trump were on obviously friendly terms as they sat down for a working breakfast in the southern French resort of Biarritz where Group of Seven leaders are gathering this weekend.

"He's going to be a fantastic prime minister," Trump said in their first meeting since Johnson took office last month.

Asked what his advice was for Brexit, Trump replied: "He needs no advice. He's the right man for the job. I've been saying that for a long time."

In the lead-up to the talks, Johnson had appeared at pains to distance himself from Trump after facing accusations in the past of being too cosy with the American leader.

And at their meeting, Johnson again pressed a common message from European leaders at the summit about Trump's escalating trade war with China.

"Just to register a faint, sheep-like note of our view on the trade war -- we are in favour of trade peace on the whole," Johnson told Trump.

The 73-year-old US leader promised Johnson "very big trade deal, bigger than we've ever had", but couldn't resist another undiplomatic dig at the European Union.

Trump compared it to an "anchor around their ankle".

RESPECT THE TRADE WAR

But to the relief of his partners, Trump also appeared to back off from a

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Jamalpur DC made OSD over leaked video

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

The deputy commissioner of Jamalpur Ahmed Kabir has been made an officer on special duty on Sunday, after a video of him in a compromising position with a female employee in his office began making rounds on social media since early Friday.

The public administration ministry issued a notification in this regard, saying the order will be effective immediately.

The post of officer on special duty or OSD rarely offers opportunity for work.

Kabir has been replaced by Mohammad Enamul Haque, who was serving as the planning minister's private secretary.

Additional deputy commissioner general (ADC-general) of the district administration Rajib Kumar Sarkar made

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Nasa names Mars moving rock after Rolling Stones



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa has honoured the Rolling Stones by naming a small Martian rock after the London band.

The US space agency decided to call the golf ball-sized rock 'Rolling Stones Rock' after it appeared to move around 1 metre across the surface of Mars on 26 November, 2018.

It was propelled by the spacecraft InSight's thrusters as it touched down on the Red Planet last year for its latest mission.

Rolling Stones Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and Ronnie Wood said they were happy with the news.

"This is definitely a milestone in our long and

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Unmarried, not 'Kumari'

HC directive on changes in Muslim marriage deed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ruled that the word "Kumari" (virgin) cannot be used before the bride's name in "Kabinnama", the Muslim marriage deed.

The word -- unmarried -- will have to be there in place of "Kumari", the court said.

Delivering a verdict on a writ petition, the HC said the words -- married, unmarried, widower and divorced -- have to be

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 26

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-30 12-45 4-45 6-33 8-00
JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-36 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Country's first aviation univ will be in Lalmonirhat

Academic activities likely to start in January

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The Lalmonirhat Airport, abandoned since World War II, is set to be transformed into Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University (BSMRAAU), the first of its kind in the country.

This initiative was taken to promote and upgrade aeronautical and aerospace studies in Bangladesh, said Social Welfare Minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed.

As part of the initiative, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University Bill, 2019 was passed in parliament on February 28, he added.

"Activities of the university began officially through appointment of its vice chancellor, pro-VC, registrar, treasurers and

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An air force plane on a strip of land in what used to be Lalmonirhat Airport which was abandoned during the second world war. The site is being readied for the construction of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University, the first university of its kind in the country.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

AMAZON WILDFIRES

Hundreds of blazes ignite

Brazil's army fights fires; G7 leaders agree to help nations affected by the disaster

AFP, Porto Velho

Brazil yesterday deployed two Hercules C-130 aircraft to douse fires devouring parts of the Amazon rainforest, as hundreds of new blazes were ignited ahead of nationwide protests over the destruction.

Heavy smoke covered the city of Porto Velho in the northwestern state of Rondonia where the defense ministry said the planes have started dumping thousands of litres of water, amid a global uproar over the worst fires in years.

Swathes of the remote region bordering Bolivia have been scorched by the blazes, sending thick smoke billowing into the sky and increasing air pollution across the world's largest rainforest.

Experts say increased land clearing during the months-long dry season to make way for crops or grazing has aggravated the problem this year.

"It gets worse every year -- this year, the smoke has been really serious," Deliana Amorim, 46, told AFP in Porto Velho where half a million people live.

At least seven states, including Rondonia, have requested the army's help in the Amazon, where more than 43,000 troops are based and available to combat fires, officials said.

The fires have triggered a global outcry and are a major

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