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## UK PM seeks snap polls to break deadlock

AFP, London

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday called for an early election after a flurry of parliamentary votes tore up his hardline Brexit strategy and left him without a majority.

His government said it would make a second attempt on Monday to trigger the national polls after the opposition Labour party on Wednesday helped block Johnson's first bid.

"It is now time for the people to decide after parliament has failed them so we can resolve this once and for all," a Downing Street spokesman said.

The vote's timing is still being debated as the country hurtles toward an October 31 departure from the European Union without a plan for what comes next.

The prime minister was dealt a further personal blow when his brother Jo said he was quitting his junior ministerial role and not contesting his seat in parliament in the new ballot.

"I've been torn between family loyalty and the national interest -- it's an unresolvable tension & time for others to take on my roles," Jo Johnson tweeted.

'RECKLESS' AND 'CHICKEN'

Battle lines were drawn across the front pages of British newspapers after a particularly bruising week of UK politics did little to resolve the three-year impasse.

The Labour-backing Daily Mirror branded Johnson "Britain's worst PM" for threatening a "reckless no-deal Brexit".

The Daily Mail shot back by calling Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn a "chicken" for refusing on Wednesday to back Johnson's proposal to hold a general election on October 15.

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## BOY'S DEATH ON FERRY High official not at fault, finds probe

### 3 terminal staffers blamed for ferry delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-profile government probe committee found no "logical grounds" to hold Joint Secretary Abdus Sabur Mondal responsible for the ferry delay, which led to the death of Titash Ghosh, 13, in an ambulance on its way to Dhaka.

In its report, the probe body said three officials at the Kathalbari Ferry Terminal in Madaripur may be blamed for delaying "Ferry Cumilla" on July 25.

They are Ghat (terminal) Manager Salam Hossain, its Marginal Assistant Khokon Miah, and Upper Division Assistant and Group Chief Firoz Alam, the report said.

The three-member probe body headed by Additional Secretary of the Cabinet Division Rezaul Hasan yesterday sent the probe report to the attorney general's office for submitting it to the High Court where a writ petition filed in this connection is pending.

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## Killed in 'gunfight' hrs after surrender

FM MIZANUR RAHMAN, Ctg

An alleged robber was killed in a "gunfight" in the port city's Jalalabad area early yesterday, hours after he surrendered before police.

Belal Hossain, 45, of Cumilla's Chandina upazila, was staying with his four-member family in the city's Ambagan area. He had 13 cases filed against him, including robbery and murder cases, said Khulshi police, where Belal surrendered on Wednesday.

Police claimed that they took Belal to Jalalabad area, a hilly portion of Khulshi, after they learnt during interrogation that Belal hid his firearms there.

Belal's family members said Belal surrendered before police so that he could return to a normal life.

They said before surrender, Belal talked to police officials of Khulshi Police Station through a local journalist. He was asked to surrender and assured that he would not be harassed.

They termed the incident "murder" and also alleged that police took money from them during the surrender.

Talking to The Daily Star, Officer-in-Charge Pranab Chowdhury said, "Belal came to the police station for surrender around Wednesday noon and we had an arrest warrant for him in a case."

"After his arrest, police officials interrogated him for a long time to know where he hid his firearms as he was a notorious criminal. The accused at night told police that the firearms were concealed in Jalalabad hilly area," said the OC, adding that police later took Belal to the area to recover the firearms.

The police official claimed that when the law enforcers reached the spot based on Belal's information, his associates opened fire to snatch him around 1:00am yesterday.



Belal Hossain

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## 5-year-old, nurse die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chameli Begum fulfilled her dream of becoming a mum when she gave birth to her first child, Saimon, 28 days ago.

An assistant nurse at Momtaz Eye Hospital in Manikganj, Chameli, 28, died of dengue fever at a private hospital in the capital on Wednesday.

Her elder brother Anwar Hossain said she was admitted to District Hospital in Manikganj on August 29 after being diagnosed with dengue.

Chameli was shifted to a private hospital in Dhaka on Tuesday, said Dr Manobendra Sarkar, in-charge of the dengue ward at the Manikganj hospital.

Anwar said his sister died at Rushmoni Specialised Hospital in Dhaka's Moghbazar area around 11:00am on Wednesday.

The newborn baby's paternal grandmother was

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## Chinese firm creates first cloned kitten



AFP, Beijing

Seven months after Huang Yu's pet cat Garlic died, the British shorthair was given a 10th life.

Born on July 21, the new Garlic was created by Chinese firm Sinogene, becoming the Beijing-based company's first successfully copied cat.

The pet-cloning outfit has made more than 40 pet dogs -- a procedure that costs a hefty 380,000 yuan (\$53,000), while the price for a cat comes in at 250,000 yuan (\$35,000).

Mi Jidong, the company's chief executive officer, told AFP that despite the high price tag, not all clients were high earners.

"In fact, a large proportion of customers are young people who have only graduated in the last few years," he said.

"Whatever the origin of pets, owners will see them as part of the family. Pet cloning meets the emotional needs of young generations."

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## AUDIT DISPUTE Show-cause notice served on GP, Robi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grameenphone and Robi's clash with the telecom regulator heated up yesterday after they were slapped with show-cause notices asking why their 2G and 3G licences should not be revoked for their failure to pay the unpaid audit dues.

According to BTRC audits into the two operators' books from their inception until December 2014, Grameenphone has Tk 12,579.95 crore pending and Robi Tk 867.24 crore.

READ MORE ON B1



## PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 6

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-35 12-30 4-30 6-20 7-45  
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-25 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



## River Lapwings visit Dhaka

ENAM UL HAQUE

While Purbachal is a fancy name of a pummeled river-bed and uprooted Sal forest, all to extend the suburb for the capital's burgeoning population, birds do not find the place unattractive because it is mostly uninhabited, unkempt and rather quiet, at least, for the time being.

A number of uncommon birds have been sighted and photographed here over the past years and one Friday morning proved to be a good time to sight yet another rare bird species.

As I tip-toed along

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## CONGRATULATIONS

The Managing Director of DIRD Group, Mr. Nabeel Ud Daulah has received National Export Trophy (Bronze) from her excellency Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, for the year 2016-2017 in recognition of the outstanding export performance of DIRD Composite Textiles Limited.

We, the employees of DIRD Group, extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Nabeel Ud Daulah for this remarkable achievement.



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