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No headway in probe

FB 'hackers', masterminds behind attack on police yet to be identified

SHARIFUL ISLAM, MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

One month into the attacks on law enforcers, houses of Hindus and a temple in Bhola's Borhanuddin upazila, police are yet to identify the masterminds behind those or the "hackers" who broke into the Facebook page of Biplob Chandra Baidya.

Many members of the religious minority community were still reeling from shock. They demanded prompt trial and punishment of the perpetrators.

On October 20, a group of religious bigots, from a rally organised to protest anti-religious messages spread from the hacked Facebook account, attacked police. The incident left four people dead and at least 100 injured.

Immediately after the clashes, religious zealots vandalised 12 Hindu houses and a temple in the upazila.

Bhola police, with the help of the Police Headquarters (PHQ) in Dhaka, are carrying out an investigation to identify the "hackers".

A PHQ official, involved in the investigation, said their probe was in the final stages.

"We are hopeful of identifying the 'hackers'," he told The Daily Star yesterday wishing anonymity.

Bhola Superintendent of Police Sorker Mohammed

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Locals have built footbridges across Segunbagicha canal in the capital's Mugdapara to enter their homes. Due to lax enforcement of law, such illegal construction work and dumping of waste go on unabated, obstructing the flow of the water body. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Ban Ki-moon to arrive on Friday

UNB, Dhaka

Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is expected to visit Bangladesh on Friday to attend the 13th convocation of Brac University to be held at Army Stadium in Dhaka the following day.

This will be his second visit in the country this year after leaving the United Nations.

He will arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 7:00am, said officials to UNB.

At 11:00am on Saturday, he will sit in a meeting with Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, and later will join a lunch to be hosted by Brac in his honor.

President Abdul Hamid is also scheduled to attend the convocation ceremony, said officials.

The former UN chief will leave Dhaka at 6:30pm the same day.

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CORRUPTION CASE

HC upholds jail term for Mir Nasir, son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld a lower court verdict that sentenced former BNP state minister for civil aviation Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin to 13 years and his son Mir Mohammad Helaluddin to three years in a corruption case.

The court also ordered them to surrender before the trial court within three months after the trial court receives the certified copy of its verdict.

The HC bench of Justice AKM Abdul Hakim and Justice Fatema Najib delivered the judgment after it held appeals hearing for around 40 days.

The bench dismissed the appeals seeking acquittal of the charges brought against the two.

M Asaduzzaman, lawyer for Nasir and Helal, told The Daily Star that on receiving the HC verdict's certified copy, his clients would move appeals before the Supreme Court's Appellate Division challenging the HC judgment and for their acquittal of the charges after they surrender before the trial court.

Anti-Corruption Commission lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told this

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US backs Israel on settlements

Palestinians slam Trump admin's policy shift; UN rights office says settlements in West Bank unlawful

REUTERS, Washington

The United States on Monday effectively backed Israel's right to build Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank by abandoning its four-decade-old position that they were "inconsistent with international law," a stance that may make Israeli-Palestinian peace even more elusive.

The announcement by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was a victory for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is struggling to remain in power after two inconclusive Israeli elections this year, and a defeat for the Palestinians.

It appeared to deliver a new blow to Trump's efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a peace plan that has been in the works for more than two years but has drawn widespread skepticism even before its release.

Pompeo said US statements about the settlements on the West Bank, which Israel captured in 1967, had been inconsistent, saying Democratic President Jimmy Carter found they were not consistent with international law and Republican President Ronald Reagan said he did not view them as inherently illegal.

"The establishment of Israeli civilian settlements is not, per se, inconsistent with international law," Pompeo told reporters at the State Department, reversing a formal legal position taken by the United States under Carter in 1978.

His announcement drew praise from Netanyahu, who said it "rights a historical wrong," and condemnation from Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, who said Washington was threatening "to replace international

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Housewife gang-raped, husband 'killed'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A man was arrested yesterday morning on charge of gang-raping a woman in Jamalpur Sadar upazila's Ramkrishnapur village on Friday night.

The woman, who is now under treatment at Jamalpur General Hospital, filed a rape case against three named and two unnamed people with Sadar police station on Monday.

The accused are Sanuar Hossain, 35, Shaon, 25 and Rafiz Uddin, 40. All three of them are neighbours of the woman.

According to the case statement, when the woman got out of her home around 8:00pm on Friday, Sanuar, along with Shaon and Rafiz, took her to a nearby bamboo cluster and raped her.

Then they tied her to a tree and beat her up before

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Qatar signs up floating hotels for World Cup



AFP, Doha

Football fans prone to seasickness may need to consider alternatives, but supporters with sealegs will be able to stay on one of two giant cruiseliners during the 2022 Qatar World Cup.

Organisers said Monday they had agreed with Swiss-based MSC Cruises for two of its 16 ships with a combined total of 4,000 cabins to be berthed in Doha Port during the tournament.

The vessels "will give fans a spectacular view of (Doha's) West Bay skyline", Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery said in a statement.

"Chartering cruise liners for fans has long been part of Qatar's accommodation strategy, with the

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TALKS WITH MODI

Lanka's new leader to visit India Nov 29

AFP, Colombo

India's foreign minister arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday and announced that new President Gotabaya Rajapaksa accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to visit New Delhi next week.

Subrahmanya M Jaishankar said he held talks with Rajapaksa in Colombo on his first full day in office after being sworn in Monday.

"President @GotabayaR

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 20

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-05	12-45	3-45	5-21	7-00
JAMAAT 5-40	1-15	4-00	5-24	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Shahadat banned for five years

SPORTS REPORTER

Out of favour national pacer Shahadat Hossain was yesterday slapped with a five-year ban, with two years of that suspended, for assaulting his Dhaka Division teammate Arafat Sunny Jr during a National Cricket League (NCL) match in Khulna on Sunday. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) confirmed the sentence, which also included a fine of Tk 3 lakh.

The cricketer has the opportunity to appeal the verdict till November 26.

The 33-year-old, who played 38 Tests, 51 ODIs and 6 T20Is for the national side, lost his cool and slapped Arafat after he had refused to shine the ball during their side's encounter with Khulna Division on the second day of the sixth round of the NCL at the Sheikh Abu

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Unwell and injured anti-government protesters wait for medics at Hong Kong Polytechnic University in the Hung Hom district of Hong Kong yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

100 still holed up at HK univ

Desperate anti-govt protesters search for escape routes after two days of clashes with police

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Anti-government protesters holed up in a Hong Kong university were frantically searching for escape routes yesterday after two days of clashes with police and dramatic breakouts by rope and motorcycle.

About 100 protesters were trapped in the Polytechnic University a day after students, some tired and fearful of police storming the campus, tried again and again to flee, only to be beaten back by police firing rubber bullets, water cannon and tear gas.

Some 280 injured were taken to hospital yesterday, the Hospital Authority said.

"I just want to leave. I feel very tired," said Thomas, 20, a student at another university who has been on the campus since the siege began. "I didn't throw Molotovs. I was here to support the protest. I don't see anything wrong with it so I wanted to support the students."

He then walked slowly, with about 10 others, towards the police who body-searched and arrested him. He had the phone numbers of lawyers written on his right forearm.

Police have made about 1,100 arrests in the past 24 hours on charges including rioting and possession of offensive weapons, they said. The total since June is more than 5,000.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said she hoped the standoff could be resolved and she had told police to handle it humanely.

Lam spoke shortly after the Chinese-ruled city's new

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