

UN Council

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you very much for your kind message of good wishes. By the grace of God I am making steady recovery and hope to be able to return Bangladesh soon.”
DON’T STAND IN THE WAY OF OUR UN ENTRY
Acting Prime Minister of Bangladesh Syed Nazrul Islam yesterday appealed to the People’s Republic of China not to stand in the way of the rightful admission of Bangladesh into the UN. He said that 85 countries of the world had already recognised Bangladesh. China had herself suffered in the past due to the obstructionist policy of various imperialist powers, he added. The acting prime minister earnestly hoped that Chinese leaders would appreciate Bangladesh’s struggle for freedom and accept the reality.
SOURCES: August 12, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Ex-Indian

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“I request the people who came in contact with me in the last week, to please self isolate and get tested for Covid-19,” the Congress leader, who was president from 2012 to 2017, said.
A number of Indian politicians, including Home Minister Amit Shah, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh Ka, tested positive in recent weeks and were in hospital.
Coronavirus has affected more than 22 lakh people till yesterday with 62,064 new cases in the last 24 hours while the death toll climbed to 44,386 with 1,007 more fatalities, the health ministry said.
Messages wishing speedy recovery for Pranab from leaders cutting across party lines poured in soon after the news about his test for Covid-19 positive broke.
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed concern and wished Pranab, the first Bangali president of India, a speedy recovery.
“Concerned to hear about Former President Pranab Mukherjee Da testing positive for #COVID19. My prayers are with him & his family during this time and I wish him a speedy recovery,” Mamata tweeted.

Noab worried

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houses women, children, and patients,” said the statement, issue by Noab President AK Azad. It called the incident disappointing and unfortunate.
Noab stated that newspapers across the country have fallen on economic hardship as a result of the ongoing pandemic. “Crores upon crores of taka are owed to these newspapers for advertisements by the different departments of the government and corporate entities. The income of newspapers has fallen, so did the circulation,” said the statement.
The association stated that while many sectors have received stimulus packages, the national budget did not meet the five-point demand from the Noab, including reducing the illogical VAT imposed on newsprint.
Noab also expressed hope that the current stalemate of the Chattogram newspapers would soon be solved.

Mystery

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skull, revealing “several very clear adaptations for life in water”.
Olivier Rieppel, a paleontologist at the Field Museum in Chicago and one of the authors on the study, said: “That neck doesn’t make sense in a terrestrial environment. It’s just an awkward structure to carry around.”
Rieppel described the creature as “a stubby crocodile with a very, very long neck”.
The scan showed that the 20-foot reptile had nostrils on the top of its snout and curved, interlocked teeth – both indications of an animal that would have hunted in the water.
Stephan Spiekman, a paleontologist at the University of Zurich in Switzerland and lead author on the study, said: “It likely hunted by stealthily approaching its prey in murky water using its small head and very long neck to remain hidden.”
Tanystropheus fossils were discovered in on the border between Switzerland and Italy.
Nearby, scientists found fossils of a creature that looked similar, but was only 4-feet long, leading them to wonder if they were juveniles or a different species. Analysis revealed they were fully grown, and therefore a separate species.
Nick Fraser, keeper of natural sciences at National Museums Scotland and a co-author on the paper, said: “It is hugely significant to discover that there were two quite separate species of this bizarrely long-necked reptile who swam and lived alongside each other in the coastal waters of the great sea of Tethys approximately 240 million years ago.”
Spiekman added: “These two closely related species had evolved to use different food sources in the same environment.
“This is really remarkable, because we expected the bizarre neck of Tanystropheus to be specialised for a single task, like the neck of a giraffe.



A motorcyclist wades through a flooded street after heavy monsoon rains in Lahore, Pakistan yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Outbreak shows signs of peaking

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The death toll is more than 731,500 worldwide since the coronavirus emerged in China last December, according to a running tally from official sources compiled by AFP.
India yesterday reported more than 1,000 new deaths, the most the country has recorded in a single day since the pandemic began.
The new toll put India’s total at 44,386 deaths, trailing only the United States, Brazil, Mexico and Britain.
The country has also reported more confirmed new cases than any other in the world for six consecutive days, including 62,000 yesterday.
MASKS IN HEATWAVE PARIS
Face masks became compulsory in tourist hotspots in Paris yesterday amid warnings of a resurgence of cases.
The requirement came as France

along with much of Western Europe sweltered in a heatwave, with temperatures soaring above 35 degrees Celsius (95 F).
The blistering heat sent crowds flocking to beaches at the weekend despite health warnings about the risk of infection.
In Berlin, thousands of children returned to school yesterday after the summer break, sporting masks which are compulsory in common areas like school courtyards. Schools in some other German regions also reopened, though with differing rules on masks.
“No child forgot their masks this morning, so we see everything is back to normal,” said Domenica Acri, headmistress of the Carl Orff primary school in Berlin.
In Pakistan, all restaurants and parks were allowed to reopen yesterday, as well theatres, cinemas

and public transport, after the country saw a drop in new cases for several weeks.
The United States is by far the worst-hit country with nearly 163,000 deaths. On Sunday, it reached the extraordinary milestone of five million cases, according to according to John Hopkins University.
President Donald Trump’s Democratic opponent in the presidential election, Joe Biden, tweeted that five million coronavirus cases was “a number that boggles the mind and breaks the heart.”
GRIM MILESTONE FOR BRAZIL
After the US, Brazil has the most cases, and on Saturday it became the second country to pass 100,000 fatalities.
President Jair Bolsonaro has played down the coronavirus from the beginning, dismissing it as a “little flu,” questioning the lockdowns

ordered by some state governors and saying their economic impact could be “more deadly than the virus.”
Following the news of the latest milestone, Brazil’s most widely viewed TV network Globo criticised Bolsonaro’s handling of the crisis, asking “Has the president of the republic done his duty?”
In Peru, indigenous people armed with spears and angry over what they consider government neglect of their communities in the pandemic assaulted a settlement for oil workers deep in the Amazon, triggering a clash with police that left three natives dead, the government said Sunday.
In Spain, top-flight football club Atletico Madrid on Sunday reported two positive coronavirus tests, just four days before they face Germany’s Leipzig for a place in the Champions League semi-finals.

Farmers lose crops, seedbeds

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In Manikganj, around 1, 76, 000 farmers have been affected as their crops on 31,577 hectares have been deluged, said local agriculture officers.
“We have incurred a loss of around Tk 4 lakh as papaya on 33 decimal, banana on 60 decimal and tree garden on 33 decimal lands have gone underwater. Moreover, three of our fish ponds have been washed away,” said Solaيمان Khan, a flood victim of Madhabpur village under Sadar upazila.
Contacted, district deputy commissioner SM Ferdaus said the affected farmers would be provided with seeds and other assistance to cover up their losses.
In Sirajganj, crops on around 22,650 hectares land in seven upazilas have been inundated, affecting over

2 lakhs farmers and causing a loss of around Tk 200 crore.
“I cultivated jute on 5 bighas of land. But all of my crops were washed away by the first phase of flood in early July. Later, I tried to prepare seedbeds for Aman but it was also damaged by the second phase of the flood,” said Shafikul Islam, a flood-victim of Suvogachain village under Kazipur upazila
Local DAE officials said they were distributing cost-free seeds among farmers.
In Nilphamari, crops on around 1,500 acres of lands have been damaged by flood, causing immense sufferings to marginal farmers.
“I cultivated peanut on my 2.5 acres of lands. The peanuts were matured and were about to be harvested. But all of them were damaged by

floodwater,” said Shahidul Islam, a resident of Dakkhin Kharibari under Dimla upazila.
“I had to take loans for cultivating the peanuts. I thought I would repay the loans after selling the peanuts. But all have been destroyed. Now, I don’t know how I will repay my loans,” he added.
In Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, crops of around 4,500 hectares of land have been damaged by flood, affecting around 45,000 farmers.
In the north-eastern region, Aush paddy on around 3,000 hectares, vegetables on 56 hectares, and Aman seedbed on 116 hectares were destroyed in four districts -- Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Habiganj.
With the support from the DAE, community seedbed was prepared on a total 3.99 acres of land in the

division, said Debnath, additional director of the DAE in Sylhet division, adding that 680 units of floating seedbed were also prepared.
In Bogura, crops of over 6,434.1 hectares lands worth around Tk 74 crores have been damaged by flood, affecting around 50,000 farmers.
In Gaibandha, crops of 2,533 hectares lands worth of over Tk 27.95 crore have been damaged by the recent flood in six upazilas, affecting some 30,000 farmers.
Local DAE officials said farmers would not be able to cultivate Aush and Aman Paddy in the upcoming season as seedbeds were destroyed. So, there might be a low production of paddies this year.
Our correspondents from Manikganj, Pabna, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Bogura and Sylhet contributed to this report.

Sefat gets out on bail

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wanted to keep him out of stress for some days.
He said they are happy about the bail, but at the same time, they are concerned about his overall safety, as he is the prime eye-witness to the incident.
Sources said that Sefat and another Stamford student Shipra Debnath have to stay a few more days in Cox’s Bazar as the investigating agency will be questioning them.
Lt Col Ashique Billah, director of Rab’s legal and media wing, told reporters yesterday that the Rab’s investigating officer has already started talking to Shipra and Sefat in this connection.
As they went through a trauma, they will talk to them gradually for further information.
The Rab official further said that Shipra Debnath, who came out in bail on Sunday, gave some “sensitive information” while talking to the investigators.
He, however, didn’t share details.
“What is most important is that

she said she will fight till the last day of her life to get justice,” the Rab director said at a press briefing at its headquarters in the capital’s Uttara.
In a Facebook status, Shipra wrote: “I am good to go far for justice. Back to my family. Just allow me some time.”
She thanked everyone for their support and empathy.
Shipra’s father Nabakumar Debnath believes that police had framed his daughter in a false case and he wants the charges against her to be dropped.
Earlier in the morning, Sefat’s lawyer told the court that police didn’t find any arms or drugs in Sefat’s possession. He is a prime eye-witness of Major (Retd) Sinha’s killing. To screen him off, police framed him in a fabricated case.
After the prosecution opposed the plea, Teknaf Senior Judicial Magistrate Court Judge Tananna Farah granted him bail.
Meanwhile, Sefat’s lawyer told the court three cases have been filed relating to one incident, and so it would be good if these cases are

investigated by one agency.
The Rab is investigating the murder case filed by Sinha’s elder sister Sharmen Shahria Ferdush with the same court on August 5, accusing nine policemen, including Inspector Liaqat Ali of Baharchhara Police Investigation Centre, Teknaf OC Pradeep Kumar Das and Sub-inspector Nandadulal Raxit.
Among 10 witnesses, Sefat is the number one eye-witness.
The documentary film crew was arrested at the scene after police in Teknaf shot dead the team leader Maj (retd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan on July 31.
Sefat, who saw the shooting, was accused in murder and narcotics cases by Teknaf police.
The police’s account raised many questions, prompting the government to form a high-level committee to investigate the incident.
Stamford students Sefat, Shipra Debnath and Tahsin Rifat Noor were in Cox’s Bazar to shoot a travel video for Sinha’s YouTube channel named “Just Go”. They were staying at Nilima Resort in Himchhari area on Marine

Drive Road.
After Sinha got killed, Ramu police raided the resort and picked up Shipra and Rifat on August 1. Police handed Rifat to his parents’ custody, but arrested Shipra under a narcotics case. She got out on bail on Sunday.
Talking to a private TV channel yesterday, Rifat said their documentary was about travel. They had shot several videos and were planning to upload those. On that day, Sinha and Sefat went to Marishbunia mountain to capture some “time-lapse” videos, he added.
He said that they didn’t see Sinha using drugs during their long stay and also termed the police cases against Shipra and Sefat false.
Rifat said police took him and Shipra to Cox’s Bazar Police Superintendent’s Office. Then they were taken to Ramu Police Station.
Sinha, 36, who served in the Special Security Force (SSF) and took voluntary retirement from the army two years ago, was killed in police firing at the checkpoint, triggering an uproar across the country.

Internet speed

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repair the submarine cable line around 12:00am and resumed operations around 12:17am,” said the BSCCL MD.
The underground cable line was damaged at Alipur under the district’s Kalapara upazila around noon on Sunday when some local workers were operating an excavator.
Workers pulled out 25 feet of the cable from five feet below the surface, said BSCCL Deputy General Manager Md Tariqul Islam.
Harun-or-Rashid, security officer of the submarine cable landing station in Kuakata, filed a case accusing five with Mohipur Police Station in this regard on Sunday night.
Yesterday, police held two of the accused -- Md Hossen Molla, 40, and Abul Hossain, 35 -- from Alipur, said Md Monir Hossain, officer-in-charge of the police station.
Hossen is the younger brother of Ansar Uddin Mollah, chairman of Latachapli union parishad.
Ansar had employed the labourers to excavate the earth to fill a piece of land next to the landing station, Tariqul had said on Sunday.
“We are trying our best to arrest the others accused in the case,” said the OC.
The cable provides nearly 40 percent of the total bandwidth used in the country. Due to the damage, consumers had been experiencing slow internet service.
The 20,000km cable system connects 19 countries from Singapore to France.

‘Vast global gap’

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“For the vaccines alone, over \$100 billion will be needed,” Tedros said. This sounds like lot of money and it is.
“But it’s small in comparison to the \$10 trillion that have already been invested by G20 countries in fiscal stimulus to deal with the consequences of the pandemic so far.”
However, he said he saw “green shoots of hope”.
“It is never too late to turn the pandemic around,” Tedros said. The message is to “suppress, suppress, suppress”.
Dr Mike Ryan, head of WHO’s emergencies programme, said the coronavirus was simple, brutal and cruel.
“It’s brutal in its simplicity, it is brutal in its cruelty, but it doesn’t have a brain,” he said. “We have the brains... we can outsmart something that doesn’t have a brain but we are not doing such a great job right now.”
Ryan said that Brazil is registering 50,000-60,000 cases per day. “Brazil is sustaining a very high level of epidemic, the curve is somewhat flattened, but it’s not going down and the system is under great deal of pressure.
“In a situation like that, hydroxychloroquine is not a solution and not a silver bullet,” he added, referring to the malaria drug which President Jair Bolsonaro has encouraged Brazilians to take against Covid-19.

Janmashtami

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President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeted the members of the Hindu community on the occasion of Janmashtami and wished them success of the programmes.
Parishad General Secretary Nirmal Kumar Chatterjee said a one-day programme has been taken centrally, which will be held on Dhakeshwari National Temple premises, marking the festival.
Religious rituals, including recitation from Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, would begin in the morning, he added.
Ramkrishna Math and Ramkrishna Mission, Dhaka will hold recitation of Gita from 9:00am to 11:30am. Other rituals include Bhajan (religious music) and distribution of Prasad in the afternoon and delivery of sermons.
To join the programmes, devotees must have to abide by health guidelines, including wearing mask and maintaining social distancing.
According to mythology, Sri Krishna was born on the eighth day of dark fortnight in the Bangla month of Bhadra. He takes birth in ages in the world to safeguard the good and pious people from the hands of bad persons by establishing truth, justice and beauty in the society.
Different religious, cultural and social organisations have drawn up identical programmes across the country to observe Janmashtami.
National dailies have published special articles while Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, and private TV channels and radio stations are airing special programmes highlighting various aspects of the eventful life of Sri Krishna.

Bomb kills six in Pakistan’s Balochistan

AFP, Quetta

An improvised bomb planted on a motorbike killed six people in Pakistan’s restive southwestern Balochistan province yesterday, police said.