

Draft constitution

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Dr Hossain declares that the government would constitute a tribunal to try the war criminals soon. “The tribunal will be framed under our own law and it will be our own tribunal,” he adds. The minister further informs that the government has made a number of amendments to the collaborators order.
ELECTORAL ROLLS ORDER PROMULGATED
The president today promulgates an order called The Bangladesh Electoral Rolls Order, 1972 which comes into force at once throughout Bangladesh. The Order says that persons attaining the age of 18 will be eligible to cast their vote for the purpose of election of representatives of people to elective bodies on the basis of adult franchise.
SOURCES: August 30, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Two college

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Station, said the dead were identified as Shuvo Shaha, 22, student of Stamford College, Dhaka, and Akash Shah, 20, student of Pabna Polytechnic Institute.
The bodies were recovered and sent to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday noon.
Quoting the victims’ family members, the OC also said that the duo went to attend a birthday party on Thursday night at Akash’s place and ate different food items there.
At one stage, they fall sick and their family members took them to Khwaza Eunus Ali Medical College Hospital in Sirajganj’s Enayetpur but they died on the way to the hospital.
An unnatural death case was filed in connection with the incident.

Flood deals

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ruined 5,500 shrimp farms in the district. The farmers have counted losses of Tk 12 crore, according to the fisheries officers.
Shrimp farmer Kamrul of Rampal said, “My three brothers and I lost over Tk 2 crore during Amphan. Then we started farming again with borrowed money. But now our shrimp worth about TK 1.5 crores have been washed away.”
In Sirajganj, the continuous flood in the last three months damaged fish resources in one of the biggest fish producing areas in Chalanbeel.
Over 155 tonnes of local fish have been washed away in the flood water in the last few months.
In Manikganj, 3,511 fish farmers were affected as their fish and fish fry got washed away in the flood waters.
Fisheries officer Saiful Islam of Manikganj said, “Many farmers are coming to us asking for the incentives announced for farmers hit by the pandemic.
[Our correspondents in Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Manikganj and Pabna contributed to this report]

Putin says Russian police force ready to help Belarus leader

REUTERS, Moscow/Minsk

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday the Kremlin has set up a reserve police force to support Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko but it would not be used unless the unrest there got out of control, Interfax news agency reported.
Putin said Russia saw no need for now to use Russian forces in Belarus over the political crisis that followed a disputed Aug. 9 presidential election. Moscow felt the situation was normalising, the RIA news agency reported.
The former Soviet republic was plunged into turmoil following the election, which the opposition says was rigged to ensure that Lukashenko’s 26-year rule was extended further.
Security forces have beaten protesters in the street and arrested thousands in a bid to stamp out mass demonstrations and strikes. Lukashenko denies electoral fraud.
“We have of course certain obligations towards Belarus, and the question Lukashenko raised was whether we would provide the necessary help,” Putin said.
“I told him Russia would fulfil all its obligations. Alexander Grigorovich (Lukashenko) asked me to create a reserve police force and I have done that. But we agreed this would not be used unless the situation got out of control.”
Maria Kolesnikova on Thursday was the latest opposition figure to be questioned by state investigators in a criminal case against a Coordination Council formed last week with the stated aim of negotiating a peaceful transfer of power.

251 lives

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was inundated, 61 percent in 1988, 42 percent in 2007 and 2017, and 38 percent in 2004, Prof Saiful mentioned.
This year, over 50 lakh people of 150 upazilas in 31 districts have been affected by the flood, according to the latest report of National Disaster Response Coordination Centre.



Peaceful protesters march through downtown in solidarity with Jacob Blake in Portland, Oregon, US on Thursday night. Protests continued across the country for the fifth night following the police shooting of Blake in Wisconsin.

PHOTO: AFP

Australia PM ‘open’ to repatriating NZ mosque gunman

AFP, Sydney

Canberra is open to the idea of New Zealand sending the Australian-born gunman behind the Christchurch mosque massacre back home to serve his life sentence, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said yesterday.
White supremacist Brenton Tarrant was sentenced to life without parole on Thursday for the attacks on two mosques last year that killed 51 Muslim worshippers.
Soon after the punishment was handed down, New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters said Tarrant, 29, should be transferred to the Australian prison system.
“The Islamic community and all of New Zealand has already suffered enough without having to pay astronomical prison costs to keep him

safe in our prison system,” Peters said.
Australia’s Morrison said he had received no request to transfer Tarrant but he was prepared to talk about the prospect with his New Zealand counterpart Jacinda Ardern.
“Whether he is held in Australia or New Zealand, look we’re open to that discussion,” he told Seven News television.
“That obviously has a lot of implications, these sorts of decisions. The prime minister of New Zealand and I will talk about those issues.”
He said the wishes of survivors and bereaved family members would be paramount in any decision on Tarrant’s future.
“Most of all we are concerned about what the views of the families would be for those affected and we want to do the right thing by them,” he said.

Tarrant, a former gym instructor from the rural New South Wales town of Grafton, moved to New Zealand in 2017 and immediately started planning an attack on the country’s Muslim community.
Government documents show it is costing around NZ\$4,900 (US\$3,240) per day to keep Tarrant behind bars, compared to NZ\$302 for a regular prisoner.
The documents say he is “likely to have needs and present risk at a level of severity beyond any” managed in New Zealand before.
Tarrant has already caused issues for prison authorities, when a letter he wrote from jail was posted on the extremist website 4Chan in August last year.
In it, Tarrant praised British fascist Oswald Mosley and warned “there is a

great conflict on the horizon”.
The Corrections Department apologised and promised it would not happen again.
Lawyers at Tarrant’s sentencing this week revealed that in a pre-sentencing interview in April he said he had renounced his racist views and felt remorse for the attacks.
But judge Cameron Mander on Thursday rejected the gesture as “uncorroborated, self-serving and a relatively recent phenomenon”, before imposing life without parole, an unprecedented sentence in New Zealand.
Tarrant is likely to be kept in isolation for his own safety at New Zealand’s only maximum-security prison in Auckland, where 80 percent of inmates are Maori or Pacific islanders.

Scientists develop injectable robots

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By shooting laser light into these solar cells, researchers were able to trigger the legs to move, causing the robot to walk around.
The study’s co-author Marc Miskin, of the University of Pennsylvania, told AFP that a key innovation of the research was that the legs -- its actuators -- could be controlled using silicon electronics.
“Fifty years of shrinking down electronics has led to some remarkably tiny technologies: you can build sensors, computers, memory, all in very small spaces,” he said. “But, if

you want a robot, you need actuators, parts that move.”
The researchers acknowledged that their creations are currently slower than other microbots that “swim”, less easy to control than those guided by magnets, and do not sense their environment.
The robots are prototypes that demonstrate the possibility of integrating electronics with the parts that help the device move around, Miskin said, adding they expect the technology to develop quickly.
“The next step is to build sophisticated circuitry: can we build

robots that sense their environment and respond? How about tiny programmable machines? Can we make them able to run without human intervention?”
Miskin said he envisions biomedical uses for the robots, or applications in materials science, such as repairing materials at the microscale.
“But this is a very new idea and we’re still trying to figure out what’s possible,” he added.
Researchers said that they were able to produce the components for the robots in parallel, meaning they could make more than one million

of them in each four-inch wafer of silicon.
The legs were made from nanometre-thick platinum that bends when stimulated by laser light, creating the walking motion.
Their average speed was about one body length per minute, the study said, adding this was “comparable to crawling biological microorganisms”.
The robots can survive highly acidic environments and temperature variations of more than 200 degrees Kelvin (-73 degrees Celsius), the study said.

Investigators looking for MP Shahid’s brother

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Md Golam Mostafa, accountant of the recruiting agency, was arrested on August 20 in a case filed by several trafficking victims with Motijheel Police Station on July 7.
Mostafa on August 24 gave confessional statement to Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Masud Ur Rahman under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, CID Deputy Inspector General Imtiaz Ahmed said, “We have found important information and got names of some persons involved in trafficking people into Kuwait. We are now analysing the information and

verifying those people’s involvement.”
Imtiaz, however, refused to disclose the identities of the suspects.
Requesting anonymity, a top CID official said they were looking for Kazi Badrul’s whereabouts.
“As Kazi Badrul’s name has already surfaced in a confessional statement, we will bring trafficking charges against him,” he added.
According to court sources, Mostafa in the confessional statement said he used to send people to Kuwait through Job Bank International as per directives of Kazi Badrul. These people were later received by Kazi Papul’s agency Marafie Kuwaitia in Kuwait.
Mostafa said he had joined the

recruiting agency as an accountant in 2012. He said brokers used to persuade people to give money to them to have a better job abroad with good salary. But their dream for a better future would be shattered as soon as they would not get those jobs.
Mostafa claimed that one Taiyeb used to frequent the recruiting agency to oversee the trafficking process, but he never met any fortune seekers.
The accountant further said he used to complete the ticketing and visa procedures of sending people to Kuwait through a recruiting agency named “Best Travel” in the capital’s Fakirapool area. One Monir of the agency used to complete the other

processes, according to court sources.
Besides depositing the collected money into the bank accounts of Kazi Papul and Kazi Badrul, Mostafa used to hand them cash amounts.
Mostafa said Kazi Badrul went into hiding after the Kuwaiti law enforcers and the government conducted drives at his brother’s agency in Kuwait.
Mentioning that he was unaware of the human trafficking activities, Mostafa apologised for what he did for the recruiting agency, said court sources citing his confessional statement.
This newspaper could not reach Kazi Badrul for comments as his phone was found switched off.

3G, 4G mobile

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The taskforce on Wednesday sent a letter to the posts and telecommunications ministry to this effect, officials said.
The decision to lift the restrictions comes amidst repeated calls from UN agencies, local, national and international NGOs, and humanitarian aid workers. They have been saying that the restrictions hinder the desperately needed services and access to information in the world’s largest refugee settlement.
The BTRC in September last year directed all telecommunication operators to shut down 3G and 4G services and to block all services, except voice calls, in the Rohingya camp areas of Ukhia and Teknaf.
Officials said the decision was made to stop the refugees from using WhatsApp, Viber, and WeChat.
It was said that the Rohingyas used the apps to contact people in Myanmar. The apps were also used for committing crimes in the country, officials said.
A technical committee of the telecom regulatory commission also found that Rohingyas of Ukhia and Teknaf upazilas of Cox’s Bazar were using around three lakh mobile connections of local carriers.
The operators were then asked not to sell SIMs to the Rohingyas.
On Monday, Foreign Secretary Masud bin Momen in a webinar disclosed the government’s decision on lifting the restrictions.

Neo-JMB

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Islam told The Daily Star yesterday. The CTC team claimed to have recovered a cell phone, five “Jihadi” books and a bank deposit receipt book from the arrestee’s possession.
Completing Dakhil exams from Saydia Dakhil Madrasa in the city’s Basabo area in 2017, Sibbir was employed as imam at different mosques. But in reality, he was engaged in militant activities, claimed CTC officials.
The officials also claimed he was involved with “Neo-JMB” since its birth and used to work as an organiser of the militant outfit’s media wing.
He had a very close relation with “Neo-JMB” chief Maynul Islam alias Musa, who is believed to have been killed in a drive on a militant hideout in Sylhet in 2017.
After Musa’s death, Sibbir slowed down but he became active again in 2018. He used internet to maintain communications with operatives of different militant outfits abroad, claimed the officials.
A case was filed against Sibbir with Sabujbagh Police Station, said a CTC official.
DC Saiful said they already gleaned some information from the arrestee and were trying to verify those. “We’re also trying to arrest his cohorts,” he said.

Goldman pays Malaysia \$2.5b as part of 1MDB deal

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Goldman Sachs has paid Malaysia \$2.5 billion as part of a settlement over the US investment bank’s role in the multi-billion-dollar 1MDB scandal, officials said yesterday.
The agreement, which has a total value of \$3.9 billion, was announced last month after lengthy negotiations.
Billions of dollars were looted from sovereign wealth fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad in a fraud that involved former prime minister Najib Razak and his cronies.
The cash plundered from state coffers bankrolled a global spending spree, and was used to buy everything from artwork, to real estate and a superyacht.
Goldman’s role came under scrutiny over bond issues totalling \$6.5 billion it helped arrange for the investment vehicle, with Malaysia claiming large amounts were misappropriated during the process.
The settlement comprises a payment of \$2.5 billion to Malaysia and a guarantee that at least \$1.4 billion in assets acquired with misappropriated funds would be recovered.
A spokesman for Malaysia’s finance ministry confirmed the cash part of the settlement “has been paid by Goldman Sachs and received via an escrow account” on Thursday.
Bloomberg News reported the funds will be used to repay outstanding debts of 1MDB, citing a person familiar with the matter.
Najib was voted out of office in 2018 in large part due to public anger over the scandal.
The government that took over charged Goldman and a string of former and current employees over the fraud, as well as demanding hefty compensation.
Under the agreement, Malaysia will end all criminal proceedings against the bank.
Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said last month that, combined with 1MDB-linked funds already returned to Malaysia by the United States, the country will receive a total of \$4.5 billion.