

Draft constitution

FROM PAGE 14
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

FROM PAGE 14
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

FROM PAGE 14
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

FROM PAGE 14
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

FROM PAGE 14
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.

Fourteen ‘fake widows’ getting govt allowance

FROM PAGE 14
to write to the local government authorities against the UP member in this regard,” he told The Daily Star.
He said an investigation was underway to determine whether the social welfare officer, who was tasked with preparing the list in the union, was involved in any irregularities.
UP member Azizul said he has replied to the show-cause notice.

Asked if he had received bribes of Tk 10,000 from each of the 14 women for bringing them under the coverage of widow allowance, he claimed that he did not receive any bribes. He said information about their husbands was concealed only because they were “helpless”.
Social Welfare Officer Hamida refused to make any comment on the matter without permission from her higher authorities.
Fatema Begum, 48, one of the 14

women listed for the allowance, said her husband Mansar Ali was alive and he was doing well.
She said Azizul took a copy of her NID card from her, but she had no idea that it would be used for sanctioning the allowance.
Asked if she gave money to the UP member or the social welfare officer in this regard, Fatema kept mum.
Another woman Khodeza Begum, 44, said she gave a copy of her NID

card to the UP member for having government relief.
She claimed that she was not aware the UP member would add her name to the list of widow allowance beneficiaries.
Locals in Amenabazar village alleged that all 14 women were from well-off families. Many widows in the village cannot avail the government benefit because they cannot “spend money” to be included in the list, the locals added.

Biden threat to ‘American Dream’

FROM PAGE 14
own acceptance speech at the Democratic nomination last week, which lasted only 25 minutes and, while delivering caustic critiques of the Trump presidency, avoided mentioning his name.
Despite Trump’s warnings of chaos, his bid for reelection is already taking place amid levels of turmoil the country hasn’t seen for decades.
Covid-19 has killed more than 180,000 Americans so far, while the nation’s painful reckoning over racial justice was playing out outside the White House where a Black Lives Matter protest, complete with shouting and vuvuzela trumpets, was audible inside the fences.
TRAMPLING OVER ETIQUETTE
Trump spoke from the White House’s South Lawn, which he had transformed into a flashy event center for the final night of the Republican convention.
Trampling over long-running presidential custom to separate the so-called “people’s house” from political campaigning, Trump had some 1,500 white chairs laid out in front of the stage bedecked with rows of US flags and two giant video screens.

The immense fireworks displayed featured Trump’s name written in fiery letters in the sky.
Before Trump appeared from the White House in a made-for-Hollywood moment alongside his wife Melania, warm-up speakers including his powerful daughter Ivanka prepped the message of Democratic mayhem.
And when Trump finally came to deliver the main speech, he did not hold back.
“If the left gains power, they will demolish the suburbs, confiscate your guns,” he said, branding Biden as a man with a history of “betrayals” and “blunders.”
Republican strategist Matt Mackowiak said the party had hit the right buttons at its four-day convention. “Trump significantly broadened his coalition this week. He will get a considerable polling bump,” he tweeted.
But Biden mocked Trump’s apocalyptic warnings.
“When Donald Trump says tonight you won’t be safe in Joe Biden’s America, look around and ask yourself: How safe do you feel in Donald Trump’s America?” Biden tweeted.
LAW AND ORDER?

The headline message comes as the country reels in shock at the videotaped shooting by a police officer of an African American man during an attempted arrest in front of his children -- and at the sometimes violent protests erupting afterward.
Days of demonstrations and rioting in Kenosha, Wisconsin, have transformed the small town into a national arena for America’s tensions over racial justice, police violence, and gun rights. When a teenaged vigilante -- reportedly a Trump fan -- allegedly killed two people and seriously wounded a third at a protest Tuesday night, the perfect storm was complete.
Struggling in opinion polls after what almost two thirds of Americans say is his unsatisfactory handling of the Covid-19 crisis, Trump is latching on to what he calls the “law and order” strategy.
Democrats assert that police forces across the country are plagued by institutional racism. Trump is leading Republican pushback, banking on the idea that Americans will be angrier at scenes of rioting than at police abuses.
“If Biden is elected, along with the Democrats who are unwilling

to speak out against this anarchy, then the crime wave will intensify and spread from cities and towns to suburbs and beyond,” Rudy Giuliani, the former New York mayor and current personal lawyer to Trump, said in his warm-up speech.
“When President Trump is re-elected the damage will stop,” he said.
MILKING THE VIOLENCE?
In addition to soaring racial tensions, the United States is still struggling to master the coronavirus outbreak or get schools and businesses back fully open.
But Trump emphasised what he said had been his administration’s constant success, predicting a vaccine would be available “this year.”
“Together we will crush the virus,” he said.
At the Republicans’ South Lawn party, there was no effort to enforce social distancing and many people did not wear masks.
Biden’s team accuses Trump of being derelict on the coronavirus. On the race front, Biden goes further.
“He views this as a political benefit to him,” Biden told MSNBC on Thursday. “He is rooting for more violence, not less. He is pouring gasoline on the fire.”

3G, 4G mobile

FROM PAGE 14
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 Ukhaia 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 Ukhaia 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

FROM PAGE 14
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 by 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.