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GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES

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SHAH CEMENT

MURDER IN HALISHAHAR

Without trial, 2 boys in jail

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Two teenagers, who were arrested by police for their alleged involvement in a murder in the port city's Halishahar area last year, have been languishing in jail for 17 months without trial.

Family members alleged that police intimidated the duo after their arrest and forced one of them to make a confessional statement.

Police, however, brushed aside the allegation.

Interestingly, the person named as the victim in the confessional statement was later found alive by police and produced before a Chattogram court on May 2 last year.

It came to light recently when the families moved the High Court and made mention of this finding of police.

In response, the court asked the first investigation officer (IO) of the case to be present before it with the arrestees -- Durjoy Acharjee and Jibon Chakrabarty -- on October 22.

The boys, both aged about 18, used to work at GPH Ispat factory as labourers and lived in Halishahar's Acharjee Para, said police and family members.

They prayed for bail at the lower court two to three times but were denied.

THE CASE

According to the case statement, police found a burnt and decomposed body at an abandoned house near Khalpar area of Halishahar on April 21 last year.

It was sent to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) morgue for autopsy and then buried through Anjuman Mufidul Islam.

The identity of the dead is yet to be known.

Md Shahjahan, the then sub-inspector of Halishahar Police Station, filed a case in this connection accusing unknown persons.

During the investigation, police recovered a SIM card packet from the spot and started investigation, taking it as a clue.

SI Shahjahan, now posted in Habiganj district, said police checked the SIM number's location and call history and detained a schoolboy named Kanchan Das for questioning.

"At one point in the investigation, police learned that Kanchan and Jibon are friends and the SIM is registered in the name of Kanchan's father. Jibon told police that he took the SIM packet from Kanchan and kept it in his shirt's pocket but dropped it at the spot unknowingly."

The then IO of the case, SI Saifullah, SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



ON A BED OF ONIONS... A hawker lying on top of his cart of onions on the side of a road near the Palashi intersection in the capital yesterday afternoon. The price hike of this essential item has transformed a once-thriving business into one which draws the attention of very few pedestrians.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

COVID PANDEMIC

WHO reports record one-day rise in cases

Europe's misery deepens; India's cases near 7m

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization reported a record one-day increase in global coronavirus cases on Thursday, with the total rising by 338,779 in 24 hours led by a surge of infections in Europe.

Europe reported 96,996 new cases, the highest total for the region ever recorded by the WHO. Global deaths rose by 5,514 to a total of 1.05 million.

The previous WHO record for new cases was 330,340 on October 2. The agency reported a record 12,393 deaths on April 17.

As a region, Europe is now reporting more cases than India, Brazil or the United States.

India reported 78,524 new cases on Thursday, followed by Brazil at 41,906 and the United States with 38,904 new infections, according to the WHO, whose data lags the daily reports by each country.

Across the world 1,063,346 people have died of the coronavirus since it first emerged in China late last year. More than SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Peace prize for Bangabandhu

October 10, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

JOLIOT-CURIE MEDAL FOR BANGABANDHU

A World Peace Council Presidential Committee meeting in its closing session awards the highest honour -- 'Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace' -- to the leader of Bangladesh's liberation struggle Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with Cuba's revolutionary leader Fidel Castro and three more outstanding peace leaders. World Peace Council Presidential Committee in a special message to the UN secretary general and to chairman of the 27th General Assembly calls upon all member nations to accept application of Bangladesh for full membership in the interest of peace and the universality of the world body.

AMENDMENTS INVITED

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman says today that any suitable amendment to the draft constitution moved by any member of the Gono Parishad (Constituent Assembly) would be welcomed. Addressing the concluding session of the two-day meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) held at the Engineers' Institutions, the leader of the party exhorts the MCAs of his party to study the draft constitution seriously. The ALPP will meet again on October 17, 1972 one day before the discussion on the draft constitution begins in the Gono Parishad.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS WELFARE TRUST STARTS FUNCTIONING The Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust starts functioning from today. SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Deaths from Covid fall to lowest since end of May

17 die, 1,278 test positive in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 17 Covid-19 deaths across the country in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, the lowest in the last four and half months.

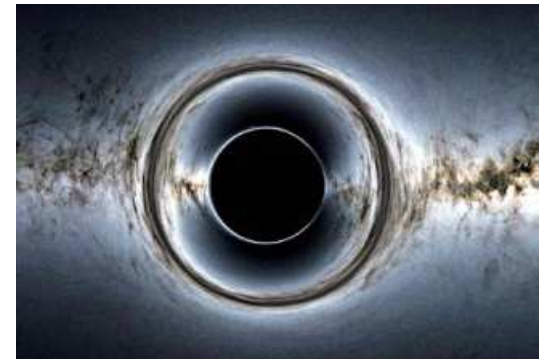
Earlier on May 28, 15 patients reportedly died of the virus infection.

The DGHS reported the first Covid-19 death on March 18, the 11th day of the first three cases were reported on March 8 in the country.

With the latest deaths, the total number of casualties due to the highly infectious virus rose to 5,477, according to a press release from the DGHS.

The death rate now is 1.46 percent against all confirmed cases in the country. SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Another universe existed before ours



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

There was an earlier universe before the Big Bang, and evidence for its existence can still be observed in black holes, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist has said.

Sir Roger Penrose made the claim after recently winning the award for breakthroughs in Einstein's general theory of relativity and proof of the existence of black holes.

Sir Roger argues that the existence of unexplained spots of electromagnetic radiation in the sky -- known as 'Hawking Points' -- are remnants of a previous universe.

It is part of the "conformal cyclic cosmology" theory of the universe, and it is suggested that SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Act firmly to protect victims

HRW urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should take proper steps to support sexual assault survivors so that they are treated timely with dignity and have access to services which are necessary to combat sexual violence against women, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a statement yesterday.

"Bangladeshi women have had enough of the government's abject failure to address repeated rapes and sexual assaults," HRW South Asia Director Meenakshi Ganguly said in the statement.

"The Bangladesh government needs to finally make good on its empty promises and heed activists' calls to take meaningful action to combat sexual violence and to support survivors," she said.

The human rights SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Rajapaksa draws Sri Lanka closer to China

REUTERS, Colombo

China and Sri Lanka plan to restart discussions on a free trade agreement, Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said yesterday, following a high-level meeting between the two countries.

Seen as close to Beijing, Rajapaksa has appointed several members of his family to top cabinet positions since his party won a commanding majority in August's parliamentary elections -- including his brother Mahinda, who previously also served as president.

Negotiations on a free SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 10

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-45 7-15
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Farmers in Bogura's Sariakandi upazila planting paddy seeds of a local variety after flood water recently receded from the area. Flooding in the upazila caused widespread damage to crops, amounting to about Tk 63.92 crore, and currently 500 hectares of crops are under water.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUI

US ELECTION 2020

Trump eyes to hit campaign trail today

Democrats propose commission to probe his fitness for the job

AGENCIES

Donald Trump said he hopes to resume campaigning today after receiving a green light from his doctor, even as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi prepares to unveil plans to probe the president's capacity to govern after contracting Covid-19.

With just four weeks until the November 3 election, Washington's top Democrat took the extraordinary step of proposing a commission to investigate Trump's fitness for the job -- and whether he needs removal under the Constitution's 25th Amendment -- which she was scheduled to unveil in a bill later yesterday.

The move came after Trump spent the day ranting against critics and threw the debate schedule with Democrat Joe Biden into turmoil.

With tensions building over the president's diagnosis and questions about his judgment, Trump said in a Fox News interview late Thursday that he wants to hold a campaign rally as early as today.

"I think I'm going to try doing a rally on Saturday night if we have enough time to put it together," he said during an interview with Sean Hannity, adding that it would be "probably in Florida."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5