



Shakib wants  
Messi to leave  
Barcelona for  
Manchester  
City or PSG  
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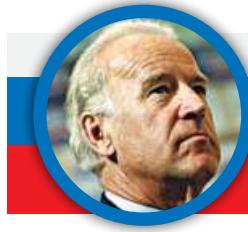


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ELECTORAL VOTE (270 TO WIN)

253  
213

POPULAR VOTE

72,193,412  
68,433,458

USA PRESIDENTIAL

ELECTION  
2020

SENATE CONTROL (51)

47  
47

HOUSE CONTROL (218)

199  
188

## Margins RAZOR-THIN

Biden edges closer to victory as results from key battlegrounds start flowing in; Trump mounts legal challenges to stop ballot count



AGENCIES

Former vice president Joe Biden, making his third run at the White House, was tantalizingly close to victory yesterday as President Donald Trump sought to stave off defeat with scattershot legal challenges.

The cliffhanger race is moving to a pivotal moment in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Arizona, and Nevada as the final votes are counted that could swing the White House toward former vice president Joe Biden or hand President Donald Trump a second term.

The counts expected to trickle in today could offer more clarity of the destiny of the race, reported CNN. Biden currently leads with 253 electoral votes to Trump's 213, and 270 electoral votes are needed to win

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Young activists and Democratic party presidential candidate Joe Biden supporters gather and dance on Black Lives Matter Plaza just outside of the White House (background) in Washington DC yesterday. Many Trump supporters have been protesting in Arizona and Pennsylvania.

PHOTO:  
AFP

MAHFUZ ANAM  
US ELECTIONS  
UNDERSTANDING  
ITS HIDDEN  
MESSAGE

SEE PAGE 8

BUYING 3CR VACCINE DOSES

Govt signs deal with India's SII, Beximco Pharma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday signed a trilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bangladesh's Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd to collect three crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines from Serum.

Pune-based Serum has an agreement with AstraZeneca to manufacture the vaccine, ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, being developed by the Oxford University. The vaccine has been named Covishield in India.

Once the vaccine is approved for human application, Beximco Pharma will buy each dose from Serum for \$4 and then supply it to the government for \$5.

The three crore doses will be delivered in phases with 50 lakh doses every month, according to the agreement.

Each person will need two doses.

The MoU was signed at the health ministry's conference room in the capital, in the presence of Health Minister Zahid Maleque and Indian High Commissioner Vikram K Doraiswami.

Md Mostafa Kamal, additional secretary at the ministry, Rabbar Reza,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

7 CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS

## Graft gobbled up over Tk 37cr

*It's more than half of the total funds, finds a TIB survey*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than half of Tk 68.16 crore meant for the government's seven climate change mitigation projects have been misappropriated, said a Transparency International Bangladesh report.

Irregularities and corruption had cost the projects Tk 37.07, said the report.

The projects implemented between 2011 and 2018 were approved on political considerations, it added.

Besides, a personal assistant of an erstwhile minister allegedly took 10 percent of the total budget for three projects and got those approved.

TIB, the Bangladesh chapter of global graft watchdog Transparency International, launched the report Climate Change Mitigation Finance and Project Implementation in Bangladesh: Governance Challenges and Way Forwards in an online press conference yesterday.

The seven projects were funded by the state-run Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF).

Of the seven projects, four were for afforestation, two for solar street lights, and one for a solar power station.

At the press conference, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said the project proposals were submitted, approved, and implemented on the basis of political considerations rather than their need and relevance in the local communities.

As a result, the projects saw "a kind of financial loss" and people did not benefit from these, he added. Instead, an influential quarter and people close to it benefited from the irregularities and corruption.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Country sees highest daily increase since September 10

1,842 infected with Covid, 17 die in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health officials yesterday reported 1,842 new cases of Covid-19 -- the highest in a single day in the last 56 days.

With this, the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases rose to 4,16,006, said a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Earlier on September 10, the DGHS reported 1,892 new cases while July 2 saw the highest 4,019 cases so far.

On March 8, the authorities reported the first three cases of coronavirus in the country.

In the 24 hours preceding yesterday morning, 17 people died from Covid-19.

With the latest figure, the total number of deaths reached 6,021,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

BDR MUTINY TRIAL

## Acquitted, yet can't walk free

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Ever since Abdur Rashid got acquitted in the sensational BDR killing case from the lower court, his family members have been counting days to see him walk out of jail.

Seven years went by and he is still behind bars.

The 53-year-old subedar of the paramilitary force, formerly Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and renamed Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), is being tried in another case filed under the Explosive Substances Act with no chance of getting released anytime soon in sight.

"After serving four years in jail, my father got acquitted in 2013. The government has not filed any appeal against the acquittal. But he is still languishing in jail and we don't know when he will be released," said Rashid's elder son Abdullah Al Mamun Shakil.

The trial proceedings in the explosive case are now moving very slowly and another 10 years would be required to apprehend the lawyer for the accused.

Rashid is not getting bail either, due to various legal complications.

"We are passing days amid uncertainty and financial hardships. My father has been suffering from various health problems, but we can't do anything about it," Shakil, 26, told The Daily Star.

Rashid joined the BDR headquarters at Pilkhana a couple of days before the bloody mutiny that shook the nation to its core. Seventy-four people, including 57 army officials, were massacred during the mutiny on February 25-26, 2009.

He was arrested on March 28, 2009.

On November 5, 2013, a Dhaka court awarded death sentence to 150 BDR members and two civilians, and life

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RETURNEE MIGRANTS  
HC throws away case against 219

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday threw out the case against 219 returnee migrant workers from Gulf states, stated a press statement issued by Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit.

The bench of Justice Enayetur Rahim and Justice Mustafizur Rahman issued the rule dropping all proceedings against the Gulf returnees.

219 returnee migrants were detained on July 5 under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, following their quarantine period.

The charges under which they were arrested were not specific, and the first information report stated that they were being incarcerated on suspicion that they could perpetrate criminal activities in the future.

"The police also accused them of 'tarnishing the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

YOUR CHANCE TO NOMINATE  
THE WINNERS ARE IN THE CATEGORIES BELOW :



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IT IS TIME TO  
HONOUR  
THE LEADERS OF OUR  
ICT WORLD

5th  
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