

Trump plans campaign-style rallies to protest election outcome

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"We do not want wastage of any money for our project and any wee bug to eat the money ... we will not let it happen."

DSCC MAYOR SHEIKH FAZLE NOOR TAPOSH



"Since when does the Lamestream Media call who our next president will be?"

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP SLAMS MAINSTREAM MEDIA FOR DECLARING BIDEN WINNER IN PRESIDENTIAL POLLS



"The American people can have confidence that this election was fundamentally fair, its integrity will be upheld, and its outcome is clear."

FORMER US PRESIDENT GEORGE W BUSH CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT-ELECT JOE BIDEN



## THE MAYORAL mechanism

How family members of Cox's Bazar Municipality boss made huge bucks from acquisition of disputed land

MOSTOFA YOUSUF, Chittagong

The land acquisition office of Cox's Bazar acquired 1.171 acres of disputed land from the wife and brother-in-law of the municipality mayor at Tk 36 crore for a project in violation of multiple acquisition and property transfer laws.

The market price for equivalent land in the area is approximately Tk 2 crore.

The land acquisition started in October last year for the Tk 150-crore project to build a surface water treatment plant, being implemented by Cox's Bazar Municipality.

Project documents obtained and analysed by The Daily Star show Mujibor Rahman, the mayor of Cox's Bazar, lobbied for the site in Jhilongjha area even though it was 11 times more expensive than an alternative proposed.

The original owners, as identified in documents, claim they did not even know that their plots had been acquired from a third party until they saw government officials on their land.

The five are the owners as per RS and BS surveys. But there are disputes over who will get what share and cases are pending.

"Due to several cases over the land, it was under the supervision of the state. Before settlement of the dispute, this land cannot be sold," said one of the owners of plot No 838, on condition of anonymity.

As per the Transfer of Property Act-1882, such disputed land cannot be sold or transferred by any party.

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## SKY ABOVE CHANGING

This view of the iconic Raju Bhaskarja on Dhaka University campus shows structures of Metro Rail in the background. It seems that when completed, Metro Rail tracks will go directly over the sculpture. DU students had previously protested the construction of the tracks through the campus to preserve its sanctity.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Suu Kyi's party claims landslide win

Dhaka optimistic of repatriation talks resumption

AGENCIES

Myanmar's ruling party yesterday said it had won enough seats in parliament to form the next government, after reporting a lead based on its unofficial count of votes from the country's second general election since the end of strict military rule.

Party spokesman Myo Nyunt told Reuters internal reports showed the National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Aung San Suu Kyi, had won the 322 seats in parliament needed, though no official results had been announced by the election commission.

Up for grabs in the election are 315 seats in the 425-member lower house and 161 seats in the 217-seat upper house of parliament. The Election Commission was expected to announce official results later yesterday.

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## Nurture tolerance, show respect

President urges political parties while addressing special JS session convened over Mujib Borsho

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday told parliament that political parties will have to nurture the culture of tolerance, show mutual respect and give importance to others' views to give institutional shape to democracy.

"Getting imbibed with the spirit of 1971, we shall have to build up resistance against those who seek to hinder advancement in the country through confusion-mongering and derailing the simple-minded people of this land by denying the reality and concocting imaginary stories and situations," he said.

"Only then would the 'Golden Bangla' as dreamt by Bangabandhu materialise, and the celebrations of his birth centenary become meaningful," he said.

He also said, "The unity that brought us together in 1971, that unity has to be forged against



communalism, undemocratic behaviour and violence."

The president was delivering his speech in a special parliament session that began on Sunday. The session was convened over Mujib Borsho, marking the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

This was the first time the Jatiya Sangsad went into such a special session in its history, according to sources at the parliament secretariat. The special session was scheduled to be held on March 22, but was postponed following the coronavirus outbreak.

Earlier, parliament went into special sittings on two occasions on January 31 and June 18 in 1974. On both the occasions, the JS was in session and was addressed by then Yugoslav president Marshal Josip Broz Tito and Indian president VV Giri.

During yesterday's proceedings, Hamid pointed

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## Land mutation in 8 days now

Cabinet clears the way for the process to go digital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday cleared a proposal on land registration and mutation, aiming to reduce people's sufferings, make the entire process easier and stop corrupt practices.

From now on, land mutation will be automatically completed online through a software within eight days of registration.

The sub-registrar's office under the law ministry is responsible for land registration while the AC (assistant commissioner) land office under the land ministry oversees land mutation.

"... An interoperability software will bridge the [two] offices," Cabinet Secretary Khandaker Anwarul Islam said at a briefing after a cabinet meeting at the secretariat.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting. She joined it virtually from the Gono Bhavan.

Terming the proposal's approval a landmark decision, Anwarul said, "It will bring great relief to all... It will reduce mutation time and backlog of land-related cases."

In reply to a query, he said the new system is already in place in 17 upazilas including Savar. It will be expanded throughout the country within a year.

"Work has been going on for many days. The prime

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## 25 more die, 1,683 test positive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of deaths due to Covid-19 rose as the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) yesterday reported 25 single-day deaths in the past 24 hours till 8:00am.

Over the last one week, the daily death toll was below 20 except the 21 deaths on Wednesday, according to DGHS data.

Since October 13, this is the highest single-day casualties, except the second day of November when the number was the same, due to the highly transmissible virus.

Around 31 people died of Covid-19 on October 12.

With the latest figure, deaths due to Covid-19 rose to 6,092, which was 1.44 percent of all confirmed cases, according to the yesterday's press release from the DGHS.

In the same 24 hours, meanwhile, a total of 1,683 people tested positive for the viral infection surging the total number of case to 4,21,921.

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People of different ages doing aerobic exercises in the city's Hatirjheel area around 6:30am yesterday. This is a regular sight as winter approaches and city dwellers strive to remain healthy, but this year the Covid-19 pandemic poses a threat. The people seen in this picture -- including older people deemed most vulnerable to the virus -- have not taken the precaution of wearing masks.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## SI Akbar held near border

Police say they detained him; video clips on social media show Khasi people captured him



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Suspended sub-inspector Akbar Hossain Bhuiyan, the prime suspect in the killing of Rayhan in police custody in Sylhet, was detained along Bangladesh-India border in Dona area of the district's Kanaighat upazila around 9:00am yesterday.

At a press conference in the evening, Mohammad Farid Uddin, superintendent of police in Sylhet, said one of their teams detained Akbar while he was fleeing to India.

But in several video clips that went viral on Facebook yesterday, it appeared that Akbar was detained by the people of the Khasi community in India's Meghalaya before he was handed to a Bangladeshi citizen in Kanaighat.

Contacted, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) officials also said Akbar was

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