

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

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Cig

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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SOON TO BE SHADOWED

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

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; Hasina becomes first PM to bring resolution for discussion

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 imbued 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 derauling 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.

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'I implore you to wear a mask'

Says president-elect Biden as he convenes pandemic task force; defiant Trump fires Pentagon chief

AGENCIES

US president-elect Joe Biden yesterday convened a task force to devise a blueprint for tackling the coronavirus crisis imploring Americans to wear protective masks, while President Donald Trump pursues several long-shot gambits to hold on to his job and fired Secretary of Defense Mark Esper.

"We could save tens of thousands of lives if everyone would just wear a mask for the next few months. Not Democratic or Republican lives. American lives," Biden told reporters in Wilmington, Delaware. "I implore you to wear a mask. Do it for yourself. Do it for your neighbor. A mask is not a political statement."

The pandemic has killed more than 237,000 Americans and thrown millions out of work. Biden spoke two days after clinching election victory over Trump.

Biden, set to take office on Jan 20, conferred by video with his 13-member task force, headed by former US

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MAYOR MUJIBOR RAHMAN

APRIL 19, 2015

The then mayor Sarwar Kamal of Cox's Bazar Municipality propose two sites for the project of Surface Water Treatment Plant.

AUGUST 16, 2018

Mujibor Rahman assumes mayoral office of Cox's Bazar Municipality

MAY 14, 2019

Mayor Mujib urges the Department of Public Health Engineering to speed up the process to acquire Jhilongjha site.

JUNE 13, 2019

Mujib requests the Department of Public Health Engineering to release the fund needed to acquire the land

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

District Land Acquisition Committee led by deputy commissioner decides to acquire the disputed land

OCTOBER 20, 2019

Mutation of the intended land done, recording names of mayor's wife and brother-in-law as owners

DECEMBER 19, 2019

Victims file writ with the HC against the acquisition

JULY 11, 2020

Land acquisition office releases Tk 8 crore for Farhana and Mizan

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 Bhaban.

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 minister has been giving

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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

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