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‘Milestone’ Pfizer vaccine boost hope

WHO chief urges all to beef up protection as global cases soar

AFP, Washington

One of the teams racing to develop a coronavirus vaccine yesterday announced its drug had shown 90 percent effectiveness against the illness, sending stock markets soaring and raising hopes of an end to draconian restrictions on movement.

US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer said tests involving more than 40,000 people had provided results that were a “critical milestone” in the search for a vaccine, as global infections soared passed 50 million -- almost one-fifth of them in the United States.

Stock markets had already jumped after Democrat Joe Biden was called as the winner of the US presidential election on the weekend, and accelerated rapidly on the vaccine news.

An effective vaccine is seen as the best hope to break the cycle of deadly virus surges followed by severe restrictions across much of the world since Covid-19 first emerged in China late last year.

Tens of millions of people in Europe are currently living under restrictions preventing them from leaving their homes, and millions of business owners are enduring forced shutdowns.

The lockdowns and other curbs on daily life have shredded the global economy but with few other tools at their disposal to protect vulnerable populations, politicians

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Despite frequent accidents leading to fatalities, labourers dangling from a ladder work without safety gear at a high-rise. The workers have been provided with safety gears and harnesses but they refuse to wear them saying the gear gets in their way of work. The picture was taken on Secretariat Link Road in the capital recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Biman won't fly to Kolkata, Chennai

Cites poor passenger response among other reasons

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday decided to suspend flights to Kolkata and Chennai due to a lack of passengers, among other reasons, amid the pandemic.

Tahera Khondoker, deputy general manager, public relations, Biman, told The Daily Star about the development yesterday afternoon.

She said the national flag carrier would not operate any flights to Kolkata from November 12 until further notice due to lack of passengers.

After around seven months of suspension of regular flights due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Biman resumed operations on the Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka route from October 29.

Biman was scheduled to operate three weekly flights on the route.

Due to lack of passengers, SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

CUSTODIAL KILLING OF JONNY Verdict delivered, compensation not

ZYMA ISLAM

A judge's court on September 9 made history by delivering the first verdict punishing three police officials under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

Imtiaz Hossain Rocky had been fighting a legal battle seeking justice for the custodial killing of his brother Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny in Pallabi.

While the fight is seemingly over, in actuality it is not.

The judge had sentenced three ex-policemen of the capital's Pallabi Police Station to life imprisonment and directed them to pay Tk 2 lakh each to the complainant as compensation.

But even after two months, Rocky was now beginning to learn that the compensation money would not be paid until the case is cleared by the higher levels of courts, where the accused party will be filing appeals to overturn the verdict.

“Two of the convicted policemen have submitted money to the court, while the other is on the run. However, Rocky will not get this money until he has won in High Court and perhaps even the Appellate Division,” said Additional Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal, who represented Rocky in his case against the law enforcers.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangabandhu greets Nixon

November 10, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CONTINUED US AMITY ANTICIPATED

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman yesterday extended his warmest felicitations to Richard M Nixon on his re-election to the presidency of the United States. Bangabandhu in his telegram message to the US president anticipated continued friendship and cooperation between the two countries and wished Nixon and the American people all success in the years ahead.

PM'S DIRECTIVE

Bangabandhu directs relevant government machineries to gear up their activities for holding the general elections according to schedule. Brisk operations are going on to hold the first general elections on the free soil of Bangladesh on March 7, 1973.

Bangabandhu issues directives to make the coming elections a success. The Election Commission has been directed to finalise speedily the recruitment of the required number of officials. Meanwhile, the task of the enumeration of voters is nearing completion. The printing of electoral rolls is expected to begin shortly.

BANGLADESH VOTED GATT MEMBER

Bangladesh is today voted in as a new member of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) by the required two-thirds majority of the organisation's 80 contracting parties. The new member will formally join GATT 30 days after signing a protocol

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JEWEL'S MURDER

2 more held, 3 confess

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Police yesterday arrested two more people on charges of lynching and setting fire to Shahidunnabi Jewel in Patgram, Lalmonirhat last month.

Rabiul Islam and Sujam Islam were arrested in the upazila in a raid, said Sumon Kumar Mahanta, officer-in-charge of Patgram Police Station.

The suspects have been staying away from their homes in Burimari area where a mob killed 50-year-old Jewel following rumours that he had demeaned the Holy Quran.

Meanwhile, three other arrested suspects Jobed Ali, Mehedi Hasan Raju and Abdul Gani Kabiraj on Sunday pleaded guilty to the killing, said Detective Branch Inspector Mahmudunnabi, who is investigating the case.

A total of 31 people have been arrested so far in connection with the

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Prehistoric hunters weren't all male



CNN ONLINE

Men hunted. Women gathered. That has long been the prevailing view of our prehistoric ancestors.

But the discovery of a woman buried 9,000 years ago in the Andes Mountains with weapons and hunting tools, and an analysis of other burial sites in the Americas challenges this widely accepted division of labor in hunter-gatherer society.

The woman, thought to be between 17 and 19 years old when she died, was buried with items that suggested she hunted big-game animals by spear throwing -- stone projectile points for felling large animals, a knife and flakes of rock for removing internal organs, and tools for scraping and tanning hides.

“Labour practices among recent hunter-gatherer societies are highly gendered, which might lead some to believe that sexist inequalities in things like pay or rank are somehow ‘natural,’” said lead study author Randy Haas, an assistant professor of

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3 land in jail over rape of 5th-grader

STAR REPORT

Three people, including a woman, landed in jail yesterday in two rape cases in Patuakhali and Mymensingh.

Police said the victim in Patuakhali is a fifth-grader who lives in a village of Amtali upazila. Around 4:00pm on Sunday, she was playing at her home yard when one of her neighbours Rashida Begum, 45, lured her into going to her home, promising to give her some gifts.

Then, Rubel Khalifa, SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 10

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:55	12:45	4:00	5:30	7:15
JAMAAT 5:30	1:15	4:15	5:34	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Planks of wood gathered by smugglers at the Sangu reserve forest in Bandarban. They have been doing so allegedly in connivance with some unscrupulous employees of the forest department. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Protect Sangu-Matamuhuri forest from loggers

Demands environment protection body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Parbatya Chattogram Forest and Land Rights Protection Movement has demanded the authorities protect Sangu-Matamuhuri sanctuary and Sangu Reserve Natural Forest from destruction and take action against the destroyers.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the platform said some timber smugglers were destroying the Sangu reserve forest in connivance with some unscrupulous officials of the forest department.

The smugglers have been using more than 1,000 loggers since mid-September to destroy the natural forest, it alleged.

The organisation demanded immediate removal of loggers tasked with felling trees from the Sangu forest, departmental action against dishonest officials of the forest department, stopping

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34th Annual Supremacy

GREEN DELTA INSURANCE

ANOTHER FEATHER IN THE CROWN

Green Delta is the first Insurance Company in Bangladesh to earn **AAA** Credit Rating from the Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh (CRAB) for the **7th** consecutive year.

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green-delta.com