Trump asks SC to invalidate

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from any of the nine justices.

The President for weeks has pushed increasingly desperate appeals and baseless conspiracy theories about his second term being stolen.

"Our Country is deeply divided in ways that it arguably has not been seen since the election of 1860," the petition states. "There is a high level of distrust between the opposing sides, compounded by the fact that, in the election just held, election officials in key swing states, for apparently partisan advantage, failed to conduct their state elections in compliance with state election law."

Echoing arguments made by Texas, Trump said the battleground states used the pandemic "as an excuse" and "ignored or suspended the operation of numerous state laws designed to protect the integrity of the ballot."

He asks the court to block the states from using "constitutionally infirm 2020 election results" unless the legislatures of the states "review the 2020 election results."

He stressed that if any of the states have "already appointed electors to the electoral college using the 2020 election results," the legislatures have the authority to appoint "a new set of electors."

Or the election could go to the House, where Trump would presumably win.

"Defendant States' electors will determine the outcome of the election," the President states. "Alternatively, if Defendant States are unable to certify 38 or more electors, neither candidate will have a majority of the total number of electors in the Electoral College, in which case the election would devolve to the House of Representatives under the Twelfth Amendment."

Paxton -- who was indicted on for securities fraud charges in 2015 and seven top aides in October accused him of bribery and abuse of office -- was expected to be at the White House yesterday, a day after Trump's request was filed at the court, CNN has learned.

He will be in Washington for a lunch with other attorneys general that a White House official said had been previously scheduled. The lunch with the attorneys general is on Trump's public schedule. An official confirmed separately that Paxton is expected to attend.

Not all of the contested states' attorneys general are on board with the Texas effort.

Wednesday night, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that Trump warned Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr, a Republican, not to rally other GOP officials against the lawsuit in a telephone call.

Carr's office had called the lawsuit "constitutionally, legally and factually wrong" earlier in the day, the newspaper reported, but the state's two incumbent US Republican senators, Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue, who are running for reelection, have publicly supported the effort.

Carr told Trump it wasn't true that he was urging other AGs to stand against the challenge, the AJC reported, according to a person on the call, who described it as cordial.

The White House declined to comment on the report to CNN.

Activists destroy an effigy depicting Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte during a protest in observance of Human Rights Day, in Manila, Philippines yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

TV journalist shot dead

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Afghanistan's ultra-conservative patriarchal system.

Maiwand's death comes as targeted killings of prominent figures becomes increasingly common as violence surges, despite ongoing peace talks between the government and the Taliban.

No group has claimed the attack.

Attaullah Khogyani, spokesman for the Nangarhar provincial governor, and the local hospital both confirmed the deaths.

"Who has problems with women working in the Afghan society?" deputy spokeswoman to the president Fatima Murchal tweeted.

She added: "These coward culprits will not be forgiven, not even after peace."

Daily life for women has improved from a nadir under the Taliban, but the United Nations noted there were widespread levels of violence against women in the war-ravaged nation.

The Afghan Journalists Safety Committee, a group that oversees journalists' security in the country, warned the continued violence was threatening to undo years of progress.

"If the killing of journalists does not stop, Afghanistan will lose one of its greatest achievements which is press freedom," the committee tweeted and called for an investigation.

Top US envoy in Kabul Ross Wilson condemned the "assassination" and called for the violence to stop.

President Ashraf Ghani's spokesman Sediq Sediqqi also condemned Maiwand's murder.

"The terrorist attack on Malalai Miwand is shocking and utterly despicable," Sediqqi tweeted. "The current senseless violence against our people must end".

Nangarhar province and its capital Jalalabad have seen regular clashes between government forces and the Taliban. The extremist Islamic State group has also claimed several deadly attacks there.

The murder of Maiwand comes just weeks after Radio Liberty reporter Aliyas Dayee was killed in a car bomb attack in Lashkar Gah.

Human Rights Watch said Dayee had previously been threatened by the Taliban.

A former television presenter in Kabul, Yama Siawash, was killed in a similar car bomb attack near his home last month.

No group has so far claimed those murders.

Afghan forces are battling an increase in violence, much of it unleashed by the Taliban as they attempt to gain leverage in peace talks in Qatar, which opened in September.

HC rejects bail to MP

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represented the state during the hearing.

Khurshid told The Daily Star that the HC denied bail to Selina and her daughter Wafa as there were specific corruption allegations against them.

The ACC filed the case with its integrated district office in Dhaka on November 11 against Shahid Islam, popularly known as Kazi Papul, who is now detained in Kuwait, his sister-in-law Jesmin Prodhan, wife Selina and daughter Wafa of laundering Tk 148.41 crore.

In the case statement, the anti-graft body said Shahid deposited Tk 148.41 crore to different bank accounts of his sister-in-law Jesmin Prodhan to cover his tracks.

Papul, Selina, and Wafa have all transferred their ill-begotten money to Jesmin's accounts, it said.

The ACC lodged the case against all four of them over the matter.

ACC Deputy Director Salahuddin also brought charges against the main accused, Jesmin, of illegally accumulating Tk 2.31 crore.

The allegations surfaced after newspapers in Kuwait reported in February that Papul was running a human trafficking racket in the Middle Eastern country.

The reports said the Bangladeshi lawmakers and their daughter occupied sensitive positions in three major companies that shipped over 20,000 Bangladeshi workers to Kuwait in exchange for an amount believed to be more than Tk 1,391.6 crore.

On November 26, Selina, Wafa and Jesmin filed two separate petitions with the HC seeking anticipatory bail in the case.

In the petitions, they said the case was filed against them with malafide intention to harass them.

Ex-Ducsu VP Noor alleges

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vehicle on reverse and tried to hit Aminul's motorcycle again, the former Ducsu leader alleged.

He said his party men Shakil Uz Zaman and Sohrab Hossain witnessed the incident from another motorbike behind.

Sohrab said, "When I asked the driver about his personal information, he introduced himself as Khandaker Sabbir Ahmed. He said the car belonged to a secretary's son. The car had a secretariat sticker on its windshield."

Nur said he was feeling insecure following the incident. He demanded the authorities ensure his security and also of his party leaders.

He alleged that police went to the spot, came to know about the owner of the vehicle and let the two car passengers go without taking any action.

He said he lodged a complaint with Hatirjheel Police Station around 4:00am yesterday.

"So far I have come under attack 11 times, including the one at Ducsu Bhaban, from goons blessed by the ruling party. We were badly injured in that attack and many of us were hospitalised. However, a police investigation found that it was a scuffle between two groups of people."

He alleged that police were reluctant to record a general diary in connection with Wednesday's incident. He urged the law enforcers to check the CCTV footage from the area.

Harun-Ur-Rashid, deputy commissioner (Tejgaon Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said their probe found that Nur's allegations were not true.

"We tracked Nur's mobile phone and found that he was not at that spot during the incident. The car hit the bus accidentally after its driver lost control. The driver was injured in the incident," he told The Daily Star.

Hackers steal vaccine data

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regulatory bodies, we are talking confidential information about the vaccine and its mechanism of action, its efficiency, its risks & known possible side effects and any unique aspects such as handling guidelines," said Marc Rogers, founder of a volunteer group fighting Covid-related breaches, CTI-League.

"It also provides detailed information on other parties involved in the supply and distribution of the vaccine and potentially significantly increases the attack surface for the vaccine," adding more ways the formulas or production could be hacked or stolen.

The companies said "no BioNTech or Pfizer systems have been breached in connection with this incident and we are unaware that any study participants have been identified through the data being accessed."

A spokeswoman for BioNTech declined further comment. Pfizer did not respond to a request for further comment.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is a top contender in the global race to beat back Covid-19. It is already being administered in Britain.

The coronavirus has killed at least 1,570,398 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP yesterday.

US TOPS 3,000 DAILY DEATHS

The US prepared to roll out a vaccine within days as the country's daily death toll surpassed 3,000 for the first time, exceeding the number of lives lost from the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Covid-19 deaths reached 3,253 on Wednesday, pushing up the US total since the start of the pandemic to 289,740, with a record 106,219 people hospitalized with the highly infectious respiratory disease.

Healthcare professionals and support staff, exhausted by the demands of the pandemic, have been watching patients die alone as millions of Americans refuse to follow medical advice to wear masks and avoid crowds in order to curb the virus' spread.

Potentially helping to rein in the outbreak, a vaccine could start reaching healthcare workers, first responders and nursing home residents as soon as Sunday, though more likely early next week, according to Trump administration officials.

US Army General Gustave Perna, the chief operating officer of the Trump administration's Operation Warp Speed vaccine development program, said all the vaccine doses remained in the hands of the pharmaceutical companies.

"But we've worked many rehearsals and planning cycles ... and that's why I'm confident that as soon as EUA (emergency use authorization) comes aboard, we'll start packing to the final destinations and distribution will begin within 24 hours," Perna said.

A panel of independent medical experts was set to decide yesterday whether to recommend a vaccine from Pfizer Inc and German partner BioNTech SE for emergency use authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration.

Saudi Arabia yesterday approved the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, state media reported, becoming the second Gulf country after Bahrain to green-light the drug.

Britain's medicine regulator said anyone with a history of anaphylaxis to a medicine or food should not get the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, giving fuller guidance on an earlier allergy warning about the shot.

Meanwhile, the full results of a clinical trial for the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine were published in the New England Journal of Medicine yesterday.

A second vaccine developed by Moderna is a week behind. Widespread inoculations, however, could take months.

Japan hit a record daily number of new infections yesterday as the country struggles to contain the third wave of the pandemic.

Health officials reported 2,820 new cases nationwide, breaking the record for the second day in row after the 2,810 infections registered on Wednesday.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation said yesterday it had pledged $250 million in additional funding towards the global campaign to fight the pandemic.

Part of the funds will be channelled to the distribution of life-saving doses of Covid-19 vaccines to parts of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

HC grants 1-yr bail to rape convict

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The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman came up with the order after examining documents sent by the Rajshahi jail authorities that confirmed Dilip married the victim on December 5, the deputy attorney general said.

On October 22, after hearing a bail petition of Dilip, the HC bench issued a condition that he would be granted bail in the case if he married the victim.

The bench also asked the Rajshahi jail authorities to arrange the marriage at jail gate if the convict agrees to marry the victim.

The court also asked the jail authorities to submit a report after complying the order within a month of the marriage, the deputy attorney general added.

Dilip was previously sentenced with a life imprisonment.

According to the case statement, Dilip and the victim were cousins and had engaged in a love affair. The victim became pregnant in 2011 when her age was 14. Dilip then refused to marry her.

On October 25, 2011, the victim filed a rape case with Godagari Police Station accusing Dilip.

On June 12 the following year, Rajshahi Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Several months ago this year, the convict filed a petition with the HC through a lawyer seeking bail.

In the petition, he said he would marry the victim. His lawyer also submitted a document from the victim to the court stating that she would have no objection if Dilip was granted bail following their marriage.

Self-driving

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shuttles on public roads in the country were constrained by strict caveats, which required them to have a safety driver inside.

This program is different. In Shenzhen, AutoX has completely removed the backup driver or any remote operators for its local fleet of 25 cars, it said. The government isn't restricting where in the city AutoX operates, though the company said they are focusing on the downtown area.

The company released a video of its minivan — the Fiat Chrysler Pacifica — navigating on its own through the city's downtown area, showing passengers getting in, loading a package into the backseat and letting a dog hop in for a spin.

It also depicts the car navigating around loading trucks, veering past pedestrians, and performing a U-turn.

"It's a dream," AutoX CEO Jianxiong Xiao said in an interview. "After working so hard for so many years, we've finally reached the point that the technology is mature enough, that we feel confident by ourselves, to really remove the safety driver."

Xiao said the company won over regulators after working to improve both its software and hardware. "We have over 100 vehicles driving every day on the road [in China] to capture data," he said. "The AI software is better [now.]"

"From a technical point of view, the car is ready," Xiao said. "It's very crucial to have this car, otherwise we cannot go driverless."

AutoX was founded in 2016 by Xiao, a former assistant lecturer at Princeton who still likes to be called "Professor X." The Shenzhen-based firm focuses on making the technology that goes into self-driving cars, and partners with major automakers, such as Fiat Chrysler, to develop and put out its robotaxis.

Court dismisses

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Khaleda has been staying at her Gulshan residence in the capital since March 25 when she was given conditional release from jail.

Speaking to The Daily Star on Wednesday, Fakhrul said filing of such a false and baseless case against the BNP leaders was proof that "Awami League had gone bankrupt".

"Our chairperson was in jail for two years. Our acting chief Tarique Rahman has been in London since 2008. How can they file such a case against them?" he asked.

Meanwhile, Judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain of Dhaka Cyber Tribunal yesterday refused to accept a case filed against Hefajat leader Mamunul under the Digital Security Act.

Bangabandhu Foundation founder Moshiur Malek had filed the case with the tribunal, Public Prosecutor Nazrul Islam Shamim told this newspaper.

While refusing to accept the case, the judge said police can file such cases over such offences under the DSA.

According to the complaint, Mamunul made "anti-state remarks" at a gathering at the BMA Auditorium in the capital's Topkhana Road area on November 13.

Speaking at a Facebook Live event on his verified page, Mamunul on Monday night termed Muktijuddho Moncho an "extremist organisation" and said he never made any disrespectful comment about Bangabandhu.

Earlier, Hefajat chief Babunagari, Mamunul and Faizul Karim were accused in two cases of sedition on December 7.

One of the cases was filed by Muktijuddho Moncho President Aminul Islam Bulbul with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Satyabrata Sikder.

Moshiur, founder of Bangabandhu Foundation, had filed the other case against Mamunul with the same court.

The court directed the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to investigate the cases and submit two reports to it by January 7.

5-yr plan draft

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begins its three-day session in New Delhi. Today's discussion is devoted mainly to a review of the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the study groups on specific issues such as flood forecasting, drainage of Agartala town and the problem of flood control in the Sagarkhali area.

The subjects listed for discussion at this meeting include programmes of joint survey of the Ganges between Farakka and Gorai, augmentation of water flow of certain rivers common to the two countries, and the flood problem of the Sylhet-Cachar area.

DANISH ENVOY CALLS ON PM

Denmark Ambassador Biering calls on Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today at the Gono Bhaban and spends some time with him. This is the ambassador's farewell call.

Sources: December 12, 1972 issues of Dainik Bangla, Ittefaq and The Daily Observer.

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Rajbari.
www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Reference: 46.02.8200.000.99.055.20.3701 Date: 10/12/2020.

e-Tender Notice-18/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal(http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of :

Sl No	Package No	Name of Work	e-Tender ID	Procurement Method	Tender/Proposal Document last selling/ downloading Date and Time	Last Date and Time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission
1	LGED/Rjb/ Residential Building/20 -21/Maint-01	Repair & Maintenance of Residential Building Senior Assistant Engineer Quarter Part at LGED Rajbari Campus.	524903	LTM	28-Dec-2020 17:00	29-Dec-2020 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (http;//www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches.

Further Information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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