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Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Work in progress using Shah Cement

SHAH CEMENT

Fear, despair grip Shalla Hindus

Mob gathering pre-declared



DWOHA CHOWDHURY, back from Noagaon, Sunamganj

"They took away all of my savings and the gold jewellery we had for my daughter's wedding. We managed to flee minutes before they attacked," 55-year-old Jhorna Rani Das said, describing the attack on her house.

Her four daughters have gone to their uncle's home and are too afraid to return to Noagaon village in Shalla, Sunamganj, where houses of Hindu people were vandalised in a communal attack on March 17.

After losing their job in a garment factory during the lockdown, her two daughters came back home in April last year. "Now we are completely broke."

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Homes of Rohingya refugees go up in flames at Balukhali of Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya yesterday afternoon. Sources said 1,000 houses of the tightly packed camp were gutted in the fire.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

1,000 houses burnt down in Rohingya camp fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A massive fire at Balukhali Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya upazila yesterday afternoon gutted an estimated 1,000 houses of the refugees.

Rohingya community leaders Faisal Anwar and Mohammad Noor told The Daily Star that the fire broke out around 4:15pm. As of 8:30pm, they could not say if there were any serious injuries or deaths.

The fire broke out at the Balukhali 8-W block of the camp and later engulfed 8-H, 9, 11 and 12, said Mohammad Shamsud Douza, additional refugee relief and repatriation commissioner.

He said a strong breeze helped the fire spread.

Mohammad Emdadul Haque, commander of Ukhiya Fire Service Station, the close proximity of the houses helped the fire spread fast.

Seven fire engines -- two SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

TORTURE IN MADRASA Student hung from ceiling-fan hook, beaten for not studying

Teacher arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police arrested a madrasa teacher on charge of beating up a student by hanging him from a ceiling fan in Bagerhat's Rampal.

Syed Mohammad Osman Gani, 30, of Haji Arif Keratul Quran Hafizia Madrasa, was held from Sreefaltala Uttarpara on Sunday night.

In the evening, Moni Sheikh filed the case with Rampal Police Station for beating up his son Shukur Sheikh, 11.

Mohammad Shamsuddin, officer-in-charge of the station, said they produced Osman before a court that sent him to jail yesterday.

The police official added that they came to know that Osman beat up the student by hanging him from the ceiling fan with a rope on Sunday morning for not studying properly.

Shukur is now fine and staying at home now.

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

'Let's hope for the best and prepare for the worst'



Members of Joy Bangla Bahini saluting Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 23, 1971.

MARCH 23, 1971 SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

A DILATORY TACTIC
The representatives of President Yahya Khan and an Awami League team met twice today. The AL team arrived at the President's House flying the Bangladesh flag -- a sight which clearly disturbed the junta. However, an agreement

on the implementation of the principles embodied in the Six Points was ultimately achieved.

MM Ahmed, economic adviser to Yahya, agreed that the Six Points scheme could be given effect with minor adaptations. He also showed some flexibility with regards to foreign trade and aid.

Lt Gen Peerzada, principal

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Bids opened despite leak of bidders' names

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Bids for the construction work of two student halls at Kushtia Islamic University (IU) for Tk 108 crore have been opened despite the fact that names of the bidders had been leaked a few days ago.

The university authorities, while opening the electronic government purchase (EGP) tenders on Monday afternoon, said they completed the process following all relevant rules.

"The construction company MS-MRT (JV) has been selected as the lowest bidder," HM Ali Hasan, director at the department of planning and development (P&D) of the university, told The Daily Star.

He said a total of 10 companies took part in the process. Four bids were made for one hall and six for the other.

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3,000-yr-old gold mask found in China



CNN ONLINE

The remains of a gold mask are among a huge cache of 3,000-year-old artifacts found at an archaeological site in China's Sichuan province.

Weighing about 280 grams (0.6 pounds) and estimated to be made from 84% gold, the ceremonial mask is one of over 500 items unearthed from six newly discovered "sacrificial pits," according to the country's National Cultural Heritage Administration.

The finds were made at Sanxingdui, a 4.6-square-mile area outside the provincial capital

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Tarique, 24 others sued under DSA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and 24 others were sued under the Digital Security Act in Sunamganj yesterday for claiming Ziaur Rahman to be the first president of the country and the first to declare its independence.

The case was filed by Moinul Islam, 47, a Bangladeshi expatriate in the United Kingdom, with Sunamganj Judicial Magistrate's Court.

Accepting the case, the court ordered Sunamganj police to investigate the matter, said the plaintiff's lawyer Akhtaruzzaman Ahmed.

According to the case statement, on December 19 last year Moinul saw on YouTube a video clip of a zoom meeting, attended by Tarique and 24 others, which was uploaded on the video-sharing platform on December 16.

In the video clip, SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

COUP IN MYANMAR EU imposes sanctions on military

Targets generals; 3 more protesters killed

REUTERS

The European Union yesterday imposed sanctions on 11 people linked to last month's military coup in Myanmar as the repression of pro-democracy protesters by security forces reached what Germany's foreign minister called "an unbearable extent".

The sanctions marked the 27-nation bloc's most significant response since the overthrow of Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government on February 1. The individuals targeted

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 23

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:55 12:45 4:45 6:16 7:45
JAMAT 5:30 1:15 5:00 6:20 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A heavily loaded sand laden truck causes a Bailey bridge on the Mara Chitra River in Mollahat upazila of Bagerhat to collapse early yesterday morning. Bagerhat Roads and Highways Department executive engineer said there were 10 such bridges on that stretch of road and none of them could withstand so much load.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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Europe can have immunity by July

Says EU commissioner; AstraZeneca's Covid jab found safe, effective in new trial data

AGENCIES

Europe could have herd immunity against Covid-19 by July, a European Union commissioner has said, as incoming jabs are expected to speed up the continent's sluggish vaccine rollout.

The note of optimism comes even as several European countries have started reimposing restrictions as they contend with surging coronavirus infections, and after mixed messaging on the safety of a key jab.

"Let's take a symbolic date: by July 14, we have the possibility of achieving immunity across the continent," Thierry Breton, the EU's commissioner for the internal market told French broadcaster TF1.

"We're in the home stretch, because we know that to beat this pandemic there's just one solution: vaccination. The vaccines are arriving," he said.

More than a third of France's population is now under renewed lockdown, while frustrations over virus curbs spilled into weekend demonstrations in Germany, Amsterdam, Bulgaria and Switzerland.

Europe's battle to prevent a deadly third wave of infections has been complicated by a patchy vaccine drive that included several nations temporarily halting AstraZeneca's shots in response to isolated cases of blood clots.