

## It's more vital to work unitedly now than ever

PM says at D-8 virtual summit

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said it is now more important than ever to work together for building a better future.

"... the world is now passing through a critical period. The Covid-19 pandemic has created havoc on the global economy. It's now more important than ever to work unitedly for building a better [future]," she said yesterday, while delivering her closing remarks at the 10th D-8 Summit as the new D-8 chair.

Bangladesh hosted the virtual summit participated by leaders of Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan delivered the opening remarks as the chair of D-8 and handed the D-8 chairmanship to Hasina.

Hasina, a founding member of the organisation, will be the D-8 chair for the next two years. This is her second chairmanship.

Hasina said after hearing statements and suggestions from the D-8 leaders, she felt hopeful and confident that by working together the D-8 can create a better tomorrow for the over one billion people in the member states.

"New solutions were encouraged. New ways were explored to transform societies and economies by optimally using the demographic dividend and the 4th industrial revolution," she said.

This is the first time the D-8 held the Youth Summit, she said, adding, "Let's take the benefit of the demographic

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



A policeman stands guard with a gun at Kotwali Police Station in Sylhet. The authorities have taken additional security measures at police stations after Hefajat activists attacked police establishments in the region.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Dhaka to seek strong US role for climate fund

Kerry flies in today

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh would seek strong US role in mobilising climate fund as pledged by developed countries for mitigation and adaptation as US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Change John Kerry arrives in Dhaka today.

"As the new US administration has returned to the Paris Agreement, we would like the US playing a very strong role in mobilising climate fund and meeting the target of limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius," a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star yesterday.

Kerry, who is scheduled to arrive around 11:00am, will hold a meeting with

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## 3 Swetchchasebak League men held in case under DSA

AL lawmaker sues them for posting on Facebook 'edited version' of his speech

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three Swetchchasebak League leaders from Chuadanga were arrested yesterday after being accused in a Digital Security Act case involving a local parliamentarian.

Solaiman Haque Joardar, the local ruling party lawmaker of Chuadanga-1, was "defamed" by the three men, who are also aligned with the ruling party, after they had uploaded on Facebook an edited version of a speech he had made.

The case was filed not by Joardar but by Sahabul Hossain, the vice-president of Chuadanga BCL, with Chuadanga Police Station, accusing six named and 40-50 unnamed persons.

Hossain alleged that the edits distorted Joardar's speech.

"He delivered a speech of 16 minutes and 54 seconds at a workshop at Chuadanga's Shilpakala Academy on August 13, 2020. But Hossain accused in the case statement that the speech was deliberately cut short and edited," said Abu Jihad Fakrul Alam Khan, officer-in-charge (OC) of the station, quoting case statement.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Tikka Khan sworn in as governor

APRIL 9, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

**TIKKA KHAN SWORN IN** The Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General Tikka Khan was sworn in as governor of East Pakistan today. Earlier, after his appointment as both the governor and martial law administrator in East Pakistan on March 8, 1971, Tikka Khan could not find a judge to swear him in as Justice BA Siddiqui, chief justice of the East Pakistan High Court, refused to administer the oath for "reasons of ill health".

**BANGALEES FLEE TOWNS** Bangalees were reported fleeing towns along the Padma river today, fearing an advance by Pakistan army units trying to crush the two week old autonomy movement in the East.

Women and children in the ferry port of Goalundo and other towns along the Padma were said to have started fleeing their homes as soon as word was received that government



troops had occupied the town of Aricha, just across the river.

Bangladeshi resistance forces were said to hold most of the territory west of the Padma which divided East Pakistan in half. On the other side, the West Pakistani army was reported to control the main urban centres, including Dhaka, 40 miles east of the river. [Associated Press, April 9, 1971]

The Pakistani government said today that "anti-national elements" in Chittagong had been "destroyed" and that many of them had surrendered to Pakistani troops. The report about Chittagong was the first official acknowledgement that there had been strife in the city.

The report, given in Pakistani government newscasts, also said

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## Pro-Hefajat speaker lands in jail for 'anti-state' speech

STAR REPORT

A Gazipur court yesterday sent Rafiqul Islam, 27, popularly known as "Shishu Bokta", to jail after he was sued under the Digital Security Act for delivering "anti-state and provocative" speeches.

Gazipur Senior Judicial Magistrate Shariful Islam sent Rafiqul to jail after he was produced before his court.

Rab Nayek Subedar Mohammad Abdul Khaleque filed a case with Gachha Police Station in Gazipur against the Islamic preacher, hours after he was arrested from his house in Purbadhola area of Netrakona, said Gazipur Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Illut Mish.

An official of Gachha Police Station said that the case under DSA was lodged as Rafiqul tried to create chaos in the country

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Mexican tricksters use disguise to get Covid jobs

AFP, Mexico City



Two Mexican men in their 30s managed to get the coronavirus vaccine in the capital by disguising themselves as senior citizens, but were later caught, the authorities said Wednesday.

With their hair and eyebrows colored white, the men visited a vaccination center for over 60s wearing masks and plastic face shields, the city mayor's office said.

Both presented false identity documents and received the vaccine, but their plan fell apart when they had to speak with a worker at the center afterward.

"A colleague realized the voice was not that (of an old man), and that was when she called the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

## US restores assistance to Palestinians

AFP, Washington

The United States has restored assistance to the Palestinians severed under former president Donald Trump with an announcement of \$235 million.

President Joe Biden's administration on Wednesday said the United States would again support the UN agency caring for Palestinian refugees with a contribution of \$150 million.

The United States will also offer \$75 million in economic and development assistance for the West Bank and Gaza and \$10 million for peacebuilding efforts.

"US foreign assistance for the Palestinian people serves important US interests and values. It provides critical relief to those in great need, fosters economic development and supports Israeli-Palestinian understanding.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

## 7th-grader raped in Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A schoolgirl was raped allegedly by a youth in Taltoli upazila of Barguna district yesterday.

The victim's mother filed a case with Taltoli Police Station against Kamal Hossain, 25, of the upazila's Chandantala village, right after the incident.

According to the case statement, Kamal used to harass the victim on her way to school.

Around 12:00 noon yesterday, Kamal found the girl alone on a street while she was returning home from her maternal uncle's house.

He then took her to an isolated place and raped

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



The grownups of a Phayre's leaf monkey family taking care of the babies on the branch of a Silk Cotton tree at Satchhari National Park, Habiganj. The adults are black except for the white patch around the mouth and the white rings around their eyes. Their Bangla name is "choshma [glasses] bandor". They are named in the IUCN Red List of endangered species, due to hunting and loss of habitat. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ASKER IBNE FIROZ

## ANTI-COUP PROTESTS 11 more killed in Myanmar

UK slams 'bullying' junta over London embassy standoff

AGENCIES

Anti-coup demonstrators in Myanmar fought back with handmade guns and firebombs against a crackdown by security forces in a town in the northwest but at least 11 of the protesters were killed, domestic media reported yesterday.

Initially, six truckloads of troops were deployed to quell protesters in the town of Taze, the Myanmar Now and Irrawaddy news outlets said. When the protesters fought back with handmade guns, knives and firebombs, five more truckloads of troops were brought in.

Fighting continued into yesterday morning and at least 11 protesters were killed and about 20 wounded, the media said. There was no word of any casualties among the soldiers.

That would take the toll of civilians killed by security forces to over 600 since the junta seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP). It had a toll of 598 dead as of Wednesday evening.

Taze is near the town of Kale, where at least 12 people were killed in a similar clash between troops and protesters on Wednesday, according to news media and witnesses. Security forces fired live rounds, grenades, and machine-guns on protesters who were demanding the restoration of Suu Kyi's government, AAPP said.

"Taze, Kale have many hunters in the jungle," said Hein

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING APRIL 9

Fajr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-40 12-30 4-45 6-21 7-45  
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION