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10TH D-8 SUMMIT Focus given on vaccines, economy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The D-8 countries have highlighted the importance of stronger cooperation on vaccine production, distribution and economic recovery in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic.

They also stressed the need for expansion of trade and commerce among them.

At the 10th D-8 summit, hosted virtually by Bangladesh yesterday, the D-8 leaders called upon the member states to cooperate in negotiations with the international pharmaceutical companies, which will give the members advantage in terms of quantities and prices of vaccines.

"All have expressed concern over the Covid-19 vaccine. They emphasised on production of vaccines as the pandemic appears to last for quite some time," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said at a virtual press conference after the summit.

"Our prime minister [Sheikh Hasina] said vaccine should be a public good and all should have equal access to it," he said at a time when the world faces a shortage of vaccine supplies amid rising cases of Covid-19.

The eight-member group, which includes Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey, established in 1997, aims to improve member states' position in the global economy, diversify and create new opportunities in trade relations, enhance participation in decision-making at an international level, and improve

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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

HEFAJAT MAYHEM Security beefed up in Dhaka, other dists

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

In the face of recent violence by Hefajat-e-Islam, the police have beefed up security in different districts, including Dhaka.

Security posts have been set up at six police stations and six outposts of Sylhet Metropolitan Police. Policemen armed with light machine gun (LMG) have been deployed there.

Sylhet district police has also taken steps to build such security posts in 12 police stations of the district, said officials.

Meanwhile, several hundred additional policemen were sent to Brahmanbaria district police and security posts were set up at nine police stations of the district to avoid any untoward incident.

Besides, instructions were given to the police stations under Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to step up vigilance and strengthen security measures, officials added.

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3 Swetchchasebak League men held in case under DSA

AL lawmaker sues them for 'defaming' him on Facebook

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.

In the edited version of the speech, a copy of which is with The Daily Star, a copy of which is with The Daily Star,

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Tikka Khan sworn in as governor

APRIL 9, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA 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 Pakistan 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

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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

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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

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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.

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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

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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

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 9

Fajr 4:40 12:30 4:45 6:21 7:45
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