came to me with sadness in his eye/ He told me that he wanted help before his country dies...Now I'm asking all of you to help us save some Then, with the full emotional weight of his voice, Harrison started hollering the one word that he wanted his audience to take away from the performance: "Bangladesh".

It was reported that over 40,000 people joined the concerts, which raised around 250,000 dollars for Bangladesh relief.

THANT WARNS COUNCIL OF INDIAN-PAKISTANI CLASH

UN Secretary General U Thant warned that a major conflict could break out between India and Pakistan, which "could all too easily expand".

The warning was made in a memorandum for Security Council members amid growing pessimism among diplomats and officials about the situation. U Thant expressed his concern about the danger of big power involvement if the deteriorating situation erupted into fighting and Pakistan turned for support to China and India to the Soviet Union.

U Thant said, "I am deeply concerned about the possible consequences of the present situation, not only in a humanitarian sense but also as a potential threat to peace and security and for its bearing on the future of the United Nations as an

infected, once they contracted such

"breakthrough infections" from Delta

- unlike the case with earlier variants -

they might now be just as likely as the

unvaccinated to pass the disease on to

increased risk of transmission and

raised concern that, unlike with other

variants, vaccinated people infected

with Delta can transmit the virus,"

CDC head Rochelle Walensky said in

Friday "in all probability" new

guidelines or restrictions would be

imposed in the United States in

response to a resurgence of Covid-19

Asked if Americans should

expect new recommendations from

health authorities or new restrictive

measures, the president responded,

the White House by helicopter for the

are once again on the upswing, with

the World Health Organization

announcing an 80 percent average

increase over the past four weeks in

five of the health agency's six regions,

a jump largely fuelled by the Delta

are in jeopardy or being lost," he told

emergency expert Mike Ryan

told reporters that vaccines were

preventing serious illness and death:

"We are fighting the same virus but a

among the first to roll out vaccination

caused a sharp surge in infections in

recent months despite one of the world's

fastest inoculation campaigns, a panel

Even in rich countries that were

In Britain, where the Delta variant

virus that has become fitter."

campaigns, cases have surged.

The global health body's top

The head of the WHO, Tedros

Worldwide, coronavirus infections

US President Joe Biden said on

"High viral loads suggest an

others.

a statement.

effective instrument for international cooperation and action."

He further stressed that outside relief would not suffice to resolve the problem and that a political settlement was required.

SHADES OF THE VIETNAM WAR The New York Times today reported that the Pak army was largely confined to the towns and roads and the guerrilla rebels were in control of the countryside.

It commented, "A visitor to East Pakistan can drive through much of the region without observing anything abnormal. Yet many foreign diplomatic observers have been tempted to, compare the Bengali situation with the opening phase of the Vietnam war, and some of the parallels -- such as those listed above are unmistakable.

"Neighboring India from the outset has provided a haven, training and material support for the Bengali rebels, as North Vietnam did for the Vietcong. Even the lush, rice growing terrain of the Ganges River delta, making up most of East Pakistan, is similar to that of the Mekong River delta in Vietnam. Rebel posters blossom briefly in Dacca and other towns, warning civilians to leave before the Liberation Army (Mukti Bahini) opens a bloody new offensive," said The New York Times.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com



To reduce the longstanding waterlogging issue at Bhabadaha, the authorities are pumping out stagnant water with 20 pumps. The photo was taken recently.

## WDB initiative 'impractical'

said Tauhidul Islam, executive engineer of WDB Jashore. Fourteen of those pumps run round the clock except during load-shedding.

He claimed due to this experimental project, the water level reduced by at least one metre compared to the previous year.

The DPP (Development Project Proposal) for installing 10 high-power pumps, each of which has the capacity to drain up to 40 cusecs of water, is completed and sent to the central WDB office for the water resources ministry's approval, he said.

The cost of the installation and renovation of some canals is estimated at Tk 50 crore and the tenure of the project is three years, Tauhidul added.

However, experts and local activist say WDB is ignoring the tidal river management (TRM) approach, proven to be the most effective way of relieving waterlogging in the region.

Through this approach, an embankment is built around a beel leaving two cut-points for water to enter and recede from. When the water recedes during low tide, it takes the sediment deposited on the riverbed in a process of natural excavation.

Activists involved with movement to get Bhabadah waterlogging solved, and experts have

and foreign correspondents for the

IPTV channel that she founded in

2018, according to Khandaker Al

Moin, director of Rab's legal and

correspondents and took money from

most of them, he said at a media

briefing held at the Rab headquarters

She appointed 70-80 staff and

"We have found some receipts of

With the ID cards provided, the

local and foreign correspondents went

about extorting money for her. "We

asked some of her office staff who said

and

information" on digital platforms to

defame important personalities and

create panic and confusion in the

important people of the state and

later extorted money by blackmailing

them. She took pictures with them

at different times and spread them

through social media only for this

consisting of 15-20 people who

maintained her social media platforms

and ran publicity campaigns for her,

name and fame so that everyone

knows her," he said, adding that

"Her ultimate goal was to earn

Helena had a strong IT cell

"She first got befriended with

Joyjatra Television was "spreading

misleading

that Helena was aware of it."

public mind, Moin said.

media wing.

in the capital.

propaganda

purpose."

according to Moin.

money deposit."

While water recedes due to the use of the water pumps, it is very nominal against the level of water receding needed to have an impact, said Kamruzzaman, former chairman of Nehalpur union in Jashore's Monirampur upazila. The union is one of the areas most affected by

Besides, rainfall so far this year has been lower in Bhabadah region than in previous years and if normal levels of rainfall occur, areas will go underwater as usual and the pumps will become useless, said Kamruzzaman, who has long been involved in the Bhabadah movement.

People living in the villages adjacent to the 52 beels spent money from their own pockets to pump out water from the crop fields to cultivate paddy this immediate past Boro season, he said.

Currently, there is no alternative to TRM to solve the waterlogging, he added.

Biswas, an adviser of the Bhabadah Water Mitigation Movement, said the waterlogging problem started in the late '80s due to excessive sedimentation amid lack of upstream water flow, which pushed sediment downstream.

termed WDB's water pumping project Sree rivers, which originate mainly

Helena wringed money through illegal IPTV

people awarded her with various titles

during interrogation, she said that the staff without giving salary and

others

Moin said.

"There

resident Bangladeshis.

according to Rab.

Digital Security Act.

in Gulshan and arrested her.

from the Bhairab river, pass through the Bhabadah region and play a vital role in draining out rainwater and saving the region from water stagnation. However, high tide carries excessive

sediment and deposits these on the riverbed, raising it over time, before receding again during low tide. Once the riverbed rises, so does the

water level of the surrounding beels and blocks drainage, leading to the whole region becoming perennially waterlogged.

Zahirul Haque Khan, deputy executive director of the Institute of Water Modelling, said while the water can be drained using the pumps, the river cannot be saved in this process.

"I heard water has been removed by using the pumps but the siltation that causes the river bed to rise cannot be managed this way," he said.

'We recommend three methods including some dredging of the river as a short-term measure, TRM as a midterm measure, and starting circular flow from upstream to solve the waterlogging problem," Zahirul

WDB is doing the pump project on their own initiative whereas TRM is a well-planned and proven method that can manage the sediment of The Mukteshwari, Teka, Hari, and the river, keep it navigable, and ease waterlogging, he added.

remuneration, he said, adding that

Jahangir Alam, own five garment

factories, 15-17 flats in Uttara, Mirpur

and Gulshan areas and five-six cars,

Alam began working in a garment

So far, he owns five companies,

Anti-Corruption

factory in 1990 and later started his

own venture in partnership with

Commission and the Criminal

Investigation Department. They will

look into these matters," Moin said,

adding that Helena also runs the

Joyjatra Foundation through which

she collected money from non-

conducted a raid at Helena's residence

foreign currency, casino items and

deer hide were found at the property,

After being tipped off, law enforcers

Foreign liquor, walkie-talkie,

On Friday, a Dhaka court placed

Helena on a three-day remand in

connection with a case Rab filed with

Gulshan Police Station under the

Narcotics Control Act, Special Powers

Act and Wildlife Conservation Act.

She was also booked under the

are

During primary interrogation,

20-25 people work for the IPTV.

## AL leader's home

DHAKA **SUNDAY AUGUST 1, 2021, SRABAN 17, 1428 BS** 

sabotage as there was no gas or electricity connection in the house.

Earlier, on March 28, Hefajat-e Islam activists set fire to the house and vandalised it. On the same day, his inlaw's house in Baganbari area was also set on fire and their car was burnt.

His office was also set on fire and burned to ashes. Describing yesterday's incident, Al Mamun Sarkar said that he has been staying at the inlaws' house with his family members since the arson by Hefajat.

Only one guard has used to live at the damaged house after the incident. Milon Mia, a guard, was at the kitchen market at the time of the incident.

When he returned from the market. he saw fierce smoke flying in the air. Instantly, Milon Mia informed him through his mobile phone.

On information, firefighters reached the spot and brought the fire

under control. Mamun Sarkar said renovation work on his house was started a

month after the Hefajat mayhem. Necessary furniture for the house was already bought. All furniture including beds, sofas and wall cabinets were burnt to ashes in the fire, he added.

He said, "A man named Syed Nazrul Islam has been slandering me on Facebook for the last one month.

"The day before yesterday he made objectionable' remarks about my father-in-law's house.'

He further said, "He posted a Facebook post about this house yesterday [Friday]. It can be done by those who dislike me or have political rivals with me."

#### Woman sues

FROM PAGE 16

On Friday morning, the chairman asked the woman to visit his house for the recovery of the borrowed money, the OC said, quoting the case

When she reached his house, none of his family members was present and he raped her taking the chance.

The woman was sent to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital for her forensic examinations, the police officer said.

Meanwhile, in Rajshahi's Bagmara ıpazila on Friday night, police arrested a youth for raping a 10-year girl alluring her by offering a fish.

The victim's father filed a case against Sumon Chandra, 19, of the same upazila, in this regard, said the district police. According to the case statement,

Sumon called the girl to his house on Friday afternoon when his family members were away. He told her that he would give her

fish for her aquarium if she visited him. As the girl visited him, he raped Hearing the victim's scream,

villagers rushed to Sumon's house and rescued her.

Sumon managed to escape but was

later held the same day

### Light behind

FROM PAGE 16

the middle of another galaxy, 800 million light years away.

Those X-rays kept to a strange pattern: after the bright, flaring X-rays, there would be smaller and later ones which appeared in different "colours" than those more obvious ones.

The X-rays looked as if they were being reflected from the other side of the black hole, noticed Stanford University astrophysicist Dan Wilkins. But such an event would seem highly unusual, given black holes are more famous for destroying light than being a source of it.

"Any light that goes into that black hole doesn't come out, so we shouldn't be able to see anything that's behind the black hole," he said

But it was another, less famous characteristic of black holes that meant those X-rays could be seen. "The reason we can see that is because that black hole is warping space, bending light and twisting magnetic fields around itself," Wilkins explained.

The discovery of light from the other side of a black hole was predicted by Einstein's theory of general relativity. But it has never actually happened before, and the discovery marks the first time that light has ever been directly observed coming from behind a black hole.

The study, 'Light bending and X-ray echoes from behind a supermassive black hole', is published in Nature

#### Rhino killings on the rise in South Africa

AFP, Johannesburg

At least 249 rhinos were killed the first six months of this year in South Africa, the environment minister said yesterday, partly pushed by the easing of lockdown curbs that increased movement of poachers.

South Africa is home to nearly 80 percent of the world's rhinos but their horns are prized in traditional medicine in Asia, and poachers have continued to mount an onslaught on the species.

The figure represents 83 more rhino killings compared with the same period in 2020.

Covid 'war has changed' from vaccines was likely to wane over time, meaning vaccination campaigns would probably last for years.

COUNTRIES TIGHTEN

RESTRICTIONS The surge in Delta variant cases is rattling parts of Asia previously relatively successful in containing Covid-19, such as Vietnam, which will from tomorrow impose strict curbs on movement in several cities

and provinces. Cases also surged in Sydney, where police cordoned off the central business district to prevent a protest against a strict lockdown that will last until the end of August.

Tokyo's metropolitan government announced a record number of 4,058 infections in the past 24 hours. Olympics organisers reported 21 new COVID-19 cases related to the Games, bringing the total to 241 since July 1.

A day earlier Japan extended its "in all probability," before leaving state of emergency for Tokyo to the end of August and expanded it to three prefectures near the capital and to the western prefecture of Osaka.

Malaysia, one of the hotspots of the disease, reported 17,786 coronavirus cases yesterday, a record high.

Thailand also reported a daily record high of 18,912 new coronavirus infections, bringing its total cases to 597,287. The country also reported 178 new deaths, also a daily record. Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said health The government said the Delta variant systems in many countries were now accounted for more than 60% of the being overwhelmed: "Hard-won gains cases in the country and 80% of the cases in Bangkok.

China's most serious surge of coronavirus infections in months spread to two more areas yesterday -- Fujian province and the megacity of nevertheless still effective at Chongqing -- in an outbreak that now spans 14 provinces.

More than 200 cases have been linked to an original Delta cluster in Nanjing city where nine cleaners at an international airport tested positive.

"The main strain circulating at present is the Delta variant... which poses an even greater challenge to virus prevention and control work," said Mi Feng, spokesman for China's

#### advising the government said protection National Health Commission.

FROM PAGE 16 information"

Bands of university students rode motorbikes around Mandalay waving red and green flags, saying they rejected any possibility of talks with the military.

"There's no negotiating in a blood

feud," read one sign. The army seized power on Feb 1 from the civilian government led by Aung San Suu Kyi after her ruling party won elections that the military argued were tainted by fraud. The country's electoral commission dismissed this allegation.

New York-based Human Rights Watch yesterday said the violent suppression of protests and arrests of coup opponents included acts that violate international humanitarian conventions.

"These attacks on the population amount to crimes against humanity for which those responsible should be brought to account," Brad Adams, the group's Asia director, said in a

Protests mark 6 months Junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun could not be reached to respond to the allegations.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners activist group says at least 6,990 people have been arrested since the coup and accuses the armed forces of killing 939 people. The military says the number of protesters killed is far lower and members of the armed forces have also died in violence. It says its response has met international norms in the face of threats to national security.

The army has branded its opponents terrorists and says its February takeover was in line with the constitution.

The military-run Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday posted a statement criticising an informal United Nations Security Council discussion on Myanmar in which Britain's UN ambassador warned of a rapid spread of Covid-19, saying half the population of 54 million people could be infected in the next two

## US flies deported migrant families back to Central America

AFP, Washington

US authorities began on Friday deporting some migrant families on flights to Central America as part of an expedited system to remove people who arrived without authorization via

Expedited deportations have been a tactic used by both Republican and

Democratic administrations in an effort to deter illegal border crossings, and comes amid a spike in arrivals.

The Department of Homeland Security said the families were sent back to their home countries, including Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, but did not provide a number of people.

like "Pallimata", "Mother Teresa" and "Probashimata". Moin said she has made negative Helena said that she and her husband, remarks about the important personalities, which has put the state

in an embarrassing situation. "It's a matter of concern that she according to Moin. as heard saving on Facebook live

that she didn't even care any minister."

The 49-year-old businesswoman inserted herself into public discourse recently with a Facebook post to form "Bangladesh Awami Chakrijibi League", a group with no official links to the ruling party. She claimed to be the organisation's president.

The episode prompted her expulsion from the subcommittee on women's affairs that she had joined six months earlier as well as from the advisory council of Cumilla (north)

After her arrest on Thursday, the Rab conducted a raid at the IPTV station and sealed it off.

During the raid, which included officials from the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, Rab found illegal satellite TV equipment though she was running the channel as an IPTV.

IPTV is a service that provides television programming and other video content through the internet using the internet protocol as opposed to traditional cable or satellite signals.

Helena also sacked many of

disclosed.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, welcomed the department's action, saying access to the documents represents "a matter of national

It has been a tough week for Trump. Four police officers on Tuesday testified to a House panel about the violence of his supporters during the Jan. 6 Capitol

same night, the Justice Department revealed it would not defend a Republican congressman named along with Trump in a civil lawsuit accusing them of helping incite the riot, while a US congressional candidate he endorsed in Texas lost her run-off election. Trump also fumed as a bipartisan agreement on Biden's massive infrastructure bill advanced in the Senate, a feat Trump failed to achieve.

Department this Justice

# Trump gets double setbacks

his family company, the Trump Organization. The Democratic-led House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee has said it wants the tax data in part to examine whether Trump had taken inappropriate advantage of U.S. tax laws.

Handwritten notes taken by Acting Deputy Attorney General Richard Donoghue in Décember and released on Friday by the House Oversight and Reform Committee painted a damning picture of Trump as he desperately sought to get the Justice Department to take the unprecedented step of intervening to try to upend his 2020 election loss to President Joe Biden.

The fact that the Justice Department let congressional investigators obtain the notes marked a dramatic shift from the Trump administration's repeated assertion of executive privilege to skirt congressional scrutiny.

"Just say that the election was corrupt + leave the rest to me and the Congressmen," Trump told Jeffrey Rosen, referring to Republicans, in a Dec. 27 phone call days before Rosen was appointed acting attorney general. The notes showed Rosen told

Trump the department could not and

would not "change the outcome of the Trump's representatives did not

respond to a request for comment. The Justice Department ordered the IRS to provide Trump's tax returns to the House panel, saying the panel has invoked "sufficient reasons" for requesting it.

The department's Office of Legal Counsel concluded it had erred in 2019 when it found the committee's request for Trump's taxes to be based on a "disingenuous" objective aimed at exposing them to the public. The committee engaged in a two-year legal battle with the Treasury Department then-Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin defied a subpoena for Trump's

In a court filing late on Friday, the Treasury Department said it was prepared to hand over Trump's tax returns to the committee and would not object to giving him 72 hours' notice before the documents are handed over. After another legal fight, the

Manhattan district attorney's office in February separately obtained Trump tax and financial records in a criminal investigation centering on his company, though the material was not publicly

week cited "compelling legislative interests" as it authorized six former

Trump administration officials to be interviewed by the House oversight panel. Among them were Rosen, Donoghue, former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and former Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey