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Smith's family.

against eating it."

200 pounds, or \$278.

Child, widow raped

After a frantic search lasting for hours, the victim was found in the hilly area by her family members, the statement added.

The victim was sent to the One Stop Crisis Centre at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital yesterday for medical examinations, said the OC.

In Cumilla, a team of Rapid Action Battalion-11 Crime Prevention Company-2 arrested the imam early yesterday over raping a 14-year-old madrasa student confining her to his

Mai Mohammad Sakib Hossain, company commander of Rab-11 CPC-2, said a special team of Rab arrested imam Abul Bashar from Nur Jahan Hotel area in Cumilla city.

Bashar, 50, of Sobdolpur in Chandina upazila, is the imam of a mosque in Tirchor Noyabari of the same upazila.

Shamsuddin Mohammad Elias, officer-in-charge of Chandina Police Station, said the victim's father filed a rape case with the police station on July 24 against Bashar.

The complainant alleged that Bashar used to visit his house to give his daughter Arabic lessons.

The imam lured the girl to his room adjacent to the mosque on July 22 and

It was time the Taliban and the

Afghan government accepted each

other and moved towards a peaceful

to stop a first major city from falling

to the Taliban following weekend

offensives by the insurgents on urban

three provincial capitals overnight

-- Lashkar Gah, Kandahar and Herat

-- after a weekend of heavy fighting

Fighting raged in Helmand's

provincial capital Lashkar Gah, where

the Taliban launched coordinated

attacks on the city centre and its prison

-- just hours after the government

announced the deployment of

hundreds of commandos to the area,

May, with the insurgents capitalising

on the final stages of the withdrawal

of US-led foreign forces after almost

In southern Afghanistan, fighting

continued in Lashkar Gah overnight

as Afghan forces beat back a fresh

by air strikes repelled the attack," the

"Afghan forces on the ground and

Resident Hawa Malalai warned

of a growing crisis in the city: "There

in hospital, the telecommunication

networks are down. There are no

medicines and pharmacies are closed."

Border said casualties were mounting

along with the administrative game

Islamabad that they were grateful that

the US had not taken the formal step

of imposing an embargo. The loss of

military supplies bothers the military,

but to [Pakistan President] Yahya

[Khan] it seems at least as important

that the US has not joined others in

conversation, that Indians and critics

economic assistance to Pakistan.

but arms itself is hopeless.

authorised "at this time".

the heat on this.

Kissinger said, during the telephone

In considering how to work around

pressure for an embargo on arms

shipments to Pakistan, Nixon asked

about future export licences. Kissinger

indicated that no licenses were being

as it goes along. We will have to take

Nixon concluded: "We will evaluate

Meanwhile, the US House of

condemning him."

Medical charity Doctors Without

Clashes have intensified since early

that saw thousands of civilians flee the

Taliban fighters assaulted at least

centres in a sharp escalation.

Afghan forces battled yesterday

FROM PAGE 12

and civil society activists.

solution, he added.

advancing militants.

reports AFP

20 years.

'NÓ MEDICINES'

assault from the Taliban.

military in Helmand said.

in Lashkar Gah.

'Abrupt' US pullout to blame

with Pakistan.

separate tweets.

Meanwhile,

Department yesterday.

the announcement.

key provincial capitals.

confined her to the room for two days. When the matter came to light, the imam fled on July 24 leaving the girl with custody of his brother Abu Yusuf.

The victim's family later rescued the girl with the help of villagers. The girl underwent medical

examinations at the One Stop Crisis Centre at Cumilla Medical College Hospital, said OC Shamsuddin.

In Joypurhat, a widow was raped in Kalai upazila on Saturday night.

The victim filed a case with Kalai Police Station on Sunday night accusing one Faridul Islam, said police. Faridul, 40, is from Balukhur village in the same upazila.

According to the case statement, the woman was alone at her home on Saturday night. She went to bed after taking dinner.

As it was raining outside, she went out of the home to see if her cattle were safe in the shed.

As the victim returned to her room, Faridul grabbed her and raped her. At one stage, Faridul fled the scene after the woman started crying for help.

Selim Malik, OC of Kalai Police Station, said police visited the crime scene yesterday and were carrying out drives to arrest the accused.

[Our correspondent in Cox's Bazar, Cumilla and Dinajpur contributed to this report.]

The United States and Britain

said yesterday the Taliban may have

insurgents of "massacring civilians" in

the town of Spin Boldak on the border

Taliban massacred dozens of civilians

in revenge killings. These murders

could constitute war crimes; they must

be investigated and those Taliban

fighters or commanders responsible

held accountable," the embassies

of Washington and London said in

Afghans who may be targets of Taliban

violence due to their US affiliations

will have the opportunity to resettle as

refugees in the United States under a

new program announced by the State

to set up the "Priority Two" refugee

for US-funded projects and for US-

based non-government bodies and

"In light of increased levels of

Taliban violence, the US government

is working to provide certain Afghans,

including those who worked with the

United States, the opportunity for

refugee resettlement to the United

States," the State Department said in

"This designation expands the

The program comes as fighting

opportunity to permanently resettle in

the United States to many thousands

of Afghans and their immediate

surges in Afghanistan ahead of the

formal completion of the US troop

withdrawal at the end of this month,

with the Taliban pushing to capture

media outlets, earlier yesterday.

program, covering Afghans who worked

Reuters exclusively reported on plans

thousands

'In Spin Boldak, Kandahar, the

Irregularities widespread in 3 hospitals treatment without necessary facilities, hospital's General Manager Shariful

yesterday, amid the country's most widespread coronavirus outbreak in months.

three hospitals, but the hospital authorities concealed the information from the DGHS as they had no Covid treatment permission from the directorate, found the DGHS committed "war crimes", accusing the committee.

More than 40 Covid-19 patients died at Radical Hospital, according to

During the visit, the committee found only one doctor in the intensive care unit (ICU) of the hospital. The doctor was not wearing any personal protective equipment (PPE).

Oxygen cylinders were kept on the ground floor ignoring safety measures, and this could have caused a serious accident at any moment, the committee found.

Although there are other commercial establishments in the building, there are no separate lift or stairs dedicated for Covid-19 patients, the report said.

Uttara Al-Ashraf General Hospital has been operating a nine-bed ICU with only one ventilator, one high-flow nasal cannula and without sufficient oxygen support and the requisite number of specialist doctors and health workers, the report added.

If a patient's condition deteriorates, the hospital referred the patient to other hospitals due to lack of treatment support, exposing the patient to further risk, the report said.

The committee found all three hospitals charged Covid-19 patients exorbitantly, at rates much higher than those fixed by the government.

The committee in its report recommended a temporary suspension of Radical Hospital's licence and its treatment activities because it continues to risk patients' lives by dispensing Covid-19 treatment without necessary facilities while charging patients exorbitant amounts.

The hospital has also concealed Covid-19 treatment information, breaching a DGHS notice issued to the hospital on May 9 to stop Covid treatment.

The report also recommended stopping Covid treatment at Shin Shin Japan Hospital and Uttara Al-Ashraf eneral Hospital.

It also recommended issuing showcause notices asking why their licences should not be suspended for risking patients' lives by providing Covid-19

Eviction protections expired Sunday

for millions of Americans who

could face homelessness within

days, triggering a scramble to unlock

billions in stalled rental aid and

eviction for nearly a year as part of a

government moratorium intended to

keep people in their houses during the

those expiring protections and only \$3

billion in aid has reached households

out of the \$25 billion allotted to states

should help. And if that money is

there, we should use it for its intended

purpose," Democratic Senator Joe

"We should be compassionate. We

and localities in early February.

But lawmakers have failed to extend

Renters had been shielded from

recriminations in Washington.

Covid-19 pandemic.

millions face eviction

over-charging and concealing Covid-19 treatment service while not having permission for it. It also said mobile courts should be

A child receives a nucleic acid test for the Covid-19 coronavirus in Nanjing in China's eastern Jiangsu province

deployed to ensure that such hospitals abide by rules and standard practices. MORE FINDINGS Radical Hospital is operating a 10-bed

ICU without sufficient ventilators, high-flow nasal cannulas, sufficient oxygen management and the requisite number of doctors and nurses. The hospital also collected surplus

bills showing various reasons while keeping patients hostage by refusing to discharge them until the bills were

Shin Shin Japan Hospital continued treatment of Covid-19 patients without approval from the DGHS and increased the risk of infection by providing treatment to both Covid and non-Covid patients without proper safety measures.

It charges exorbitantly for oxygen and forces patients to pay more than the government-fixed rates for cardiac monitors, high flow nasal cannulas and service charge.

As a chart of charges were not displayed at public places at the hospital, it appears that the hospital used to collect fees as per the authorities' whims, the report says.

ALLEGATIONS OF SABUJ'S FAMILY Sirajdikhan in from Munshiganj, had been experiencing

breathing problems and after his family could not find beds at various hospitals, they admitted him to Shin Shin Japan Hospital on July 18 after a broker informed them of a vacant ICU

The daily charge for the ICU bed as Tk 35.000, excluding all other charges, Jyoti Costa, Sabuj's father-inlaw, told The Daily Star on Sunday.

He said on July 21, the hospital informed them that the patient immediately needed an Avastin injection, which they collected from Dhanmondi at Tk 80,800.

After the injection administered, Sabuj started behaving abnormally from 1:30 am on July 23 and stabbed three nurses -- Mitu Rego, Kakoli and Sagar -- on duty at the ICU, he said.

Then, several unknown officials and staffers, upon the instigation of the

Over a quarter of renters are behind

Southern states are some of the

in some states, according to the Center

on Budget and Policy Priorities think-

worst affected, though some 16

percent of US households owed rent

-- about double the amount before the

The protections lapsed at midnight

on Saturday, two days after the White

House announced it would not be

legally able to renew the moratorium.

efforts to extend the freeze through

mid-October, and the House of

Representatives adjourned for its

summer vacation Friday without

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez laid blame

But Democratic Congresswoman

Republicans balked at Democratic

US authorities scramble, trade blame as

Manchin told CNN.

Islam, beat him indiscriminately from 1:30 am to 6:00 am, Jyoti said in a complaint lodged with Uttara West Police Station. His right hand was fractured and

his left wrist disjointed, the complaint

Jyoti said when he reached the hospital around 10:00 am that morning he found Sabuj with his hands and legs tied to a hospital bed in front of the ICU. Jvoti found bruises on different parts of Sabuj's body.

With the assistance of police, he took Sabuj to United Hospital for treatment where he died on July 26. He had to pay Tk 60,000 extra for the treatment of the nurses, along with a total bill of more than Tk 5 lakh to the Uttara hospital and around Tk 8 lakh to United Hospital.

He said Sabuj was supposed to migrate to the US with his family soon. He also demanded a fair investigation into the incident and punishment to those responsible for killing his sonin-law.

Asked whether the Avastin injection has any such reaction, a retired medicine specialist said under condition of anonymity that the injection is given to critical Covid-19 patients and he had never heard of any such side effect.

The hospital GM Shariful Islam claimed that their staffers were not responsible for the beating and that attendants of other patients assaulted Sabuj. He also claimed that their hospital has sufficient treatment

Saiful Islam, deputy commissioner of Uttara Division of DMP, said Sabui's lung was 70 percent infected. He was also beaten severely.

"We are waiting for the post mortem report to know the reason behind his death. If his death was caused by the assault, we will take legal action against those involved," he told The Daily Star.

He also said they were collecting information to know whether he was given proper treatment and they seek the opinion of medical experts.

"If we find any anomalies legal action will be taken. We will also collect a copy of the DGHS investigation on the hospital," he added.

on President Joe Biden's administration

for waiting until the last minute to ask

Congress to act -- saying it could have

people out when billions in aid have

not been spent -- a total of 46 billion

has been approved by Congress -- and

called for an immediate vote to extend

homes when our end of the bargain

has not been fulfilled," she told CNN.

other senior Democratic leaders also

urged Biden to extend the moratorium

keep people from being put out on

the street which also contributes to

the public health emergency," they

"We cannot kick people out of their

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and

"Doing so is a moral imperative to

She added it would be unfair to turf

done so weeks earlier.

the moratorium

in a Sunday statement.

A car Prince Charles gave Princess Diana as an engagement present also recently went up for auction, selling for more than £52,000 (\$72,000).

Sadeque Agro

Princess Diana's

one of the cakes sent to the staff.

Mother, the auctioneer said, adding

that this seemed to have been from

The 40-year-old slice, which has

been kept in plastic wrap in an old

cake tin, was sold to Dominic Winter

Auctioneers in 2008 on behalf of

The auctioneer said it "appears to

be in exactly the same good condition

as when originally sold, but we advise

Ceremonial and Order of Service

programs for the wedding, which had

an estimated worldwide television

audience of more than 700 million

people. It also includes a memorial

cake slice is expected to go for at least

a few months after Princess Diana's

sons agreed to loan her wedding dress

to go on public display at Kensington

The auction is on August 11. The

This announcement comes just

Royal Wedding Breakfast program.

The listing also includes printed

airlines flight on July 5, 2021, Deputy Commissioner (Preventive) of Dhaka Customs House Mohammad Abdus Sadeq told media on July 6.

After the flight landed, no one came to the airport to claim the animals.

Abdus Sadeq said customs officials eized the herd as import of Brahmanbreed cows is not legal in the country, and the importer could not be located.

The animals were handed over to the Livestock Department, he added.

DU Prof sued

complaint, the Facebook post of Prof Karzon "was ugly and defamatory; it hurt crores of Hindu people's religious sentiments as it went viral on social media."

The complaint said, "Prof Karzon posted it on purpose to create religious chaos and to embarrass the government of a non-communal country.'

Prior to filing of the case, a general diary was lodged on the matter on July

On July 31, a delegation of Bangladesh Hindu Lawyers' Council led by its president Sumon Kumar Roy met DU Vice-chancellor Md Akhtaruzzaman and submitted a written complaint, seeking action against Prof Karzon.

The accused professor told The Daily Star that the post he shared was a satire and when he realised that it could hurt someone's religious sentiment, he removed it and apologised in another post.

"I apologised, the case was filed only for harassing me."

Muhith still

FROM PAGE 12

said, seeking prayers from the countrymen.

Muhith on Sunday night had told Momen that everything was alright but there was no newspapers or books with him.

"So, I am supplying him with

newspapers and books," Momen said. Muhith also inquired about the situation of the country.

Anger as top US Republican jokes about hitting Pelosi

AFP, Washington

The top Republican in the US House of Representatives faced calls to apologize or resign Sunday after joking about hitting speaker Nancy Pelosi with a gavel.

It marked a sharp escalation in a nasty spat between the Republican minority leader Kevin McCarthy and Pelosi, the chamber's top Democrat.

At a fundraising dinner Saturday night in Tennessee, McCarthy spoke with optimism about prospects for his party retaking the House in mid-term elections next year.

At one point attendees presented him with an oversized gavel, prompting him to joke that -- should he become speaker -- he would

struggle to resist striking Pelosi with it. "I want you to watch Nancy Pelosi hand me that gavel. It will be hard not to hit her with it but I will bang it down," McCarthy said to cheers and laughter from the room, according

to details shared by a Washington Post reporter and a local Nashville journalist who were at the event. McCarthy's comments were the latest sign of his deteriorating relations with Pelosi -- who last week called her Republican counterpart a "moron" for

opposing mask mandates to fight the resurgent Covid-19 pandemic. Democrats pounced on McCarthy

Sunday. Representative Ted Lieu of

California urged McCarthy apologize or resign, a call echoed by fellow California lawmaker Eric Swalwell. "Violence against women is not a

joke," tweeted Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez of New Mexico, one of a string of female lawmakers who voiced outrage at the comments.

Bangladesh warns against Representatives approved today, by a South Asian decisions. close vote, a foreign aid bill that would "The Pakistanis," Kissinger wrote authorise \$6.9 billion in economic in the memorandum, "have played and military assistance over the next

is fighting, power cuts, sick people family members who may be at risk."

and have not made an issue of our Pakistan and Greece. restrictions. It was clear when I was in OPERATION

OUTPOST The Pakistan army formed a strong position at Nakshi Border outpost situated in Sherpur District. The Bangladesh Liberation Army made it a target considering its geographical importance. On August 3, the Bravo and Delta Company of the 8th East Bengal

Regiment attacked the border outpost.

two years, but would suspend aid to

NAKSHI BORDER

The Pakistanis fled the camp and of Pakistan in the Congress were took shelter in a nearby forest. But asking for an embargo on arms and soon they attacked the freedom fighters. A fierce battle broke out. "The extreme people want to cut off Pakistani army suffered heavy everything," he said, and concluded, casualties. Twelve liberation fighters "on relief we have a fighting chance embraced martyrdom.

SADAT WRITES TO YAHYA ON BANGLADESH ISSUE

Egyptian President Sadat wrote to Yahya on the situation in East Pakistan. Sadat was believed to have stressed the need for creating conditions in East Pakistan which would enable refugees to return to their homes.

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

Israel's top court delays decision on Sheikh Jarrah evictions

Israel's Supreme Court yesterday delayed a decision in the case of Palestinian families facing expulsion by Israeli settlers in annexed east Jerusalem, an issue that exploded into armed conflict in May.

Palestinians said the offer was made that they remain in their properties in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood as "protected tenants" who would recognise Israeli ownership of the homes and pay a symbolic annual

rent, but they refused.

"They placed a lot of pressure on us to reach an agreement with the Israeli settlers in which we would be renting from the settler organisations," said Muhammad el-Kurd, from one of four Palestinian families at the heart of the

"Of course this is rejected," he said. Justice Isaac Amit called for further documentation and said "we will publish a decision later", but without

AFP, Washington

German politician Christian Schmidt yesterday took over as the top international envoy in Bosnia despite opposition from Russia and Bosnian Serbs who consider him "illegal" and say they won't work with him.

The former German agriculture minister succeeded Austrian diplomat Valentin Inzko, whose decision to end his term by imposing a ban on genocide denial in late July angered Bosnian Serb political representatives.

8,000 Muslim men and boys by Bosnian Serb forces, a few months before Bosnia's war ended, has been deemed genocide by a number of international judicial verdicts.

But Serb leaders usually deny the atrocity amounted to genocide, instead calling it a "great crime".

The main role of the UN representative in Bosnia is to oversee the implementation of the peace deal that ended the Balkan country's 1992-1995 war between its Croats, Muslims work together to achieve this.'

The official also has various executive powers, including to impose laws and sack elected officials. "Bosnia and Herzegovina must

be put back on the political agenda of the international community and the European Union," Schmidt said during his inaugural speech yesterday.

"I am very optimistic about the ability of the international community, Europeans, Americans and all other countries of the world to

Bosnia's new top international envoy takes office The 1995 massacre of more than and Serbs.