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Country's first bomb archive goes online

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The country's first-ever "Bomb Data Centre" is now ready and to provide details of any bomb-like object within moments just analysing its picture.

Officials, who are on duty round the clock, will not only help to identify the explosive object but also give advice on how to detonate it.

The Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU) of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit has set up the data centre with a cost of Tk 50 lakh.

The data centre has become operational since yesterday. Inside the centre, there have an archive of all types of explosives and Improvised Explosives Device (IED) used by militant outfits, political parties or industrial explosions since the year 2000.

The archive so far has around 61 slots and the officials preserved all the IED's replicas found so far in different attacks and blasts in these slots with a bar code.

You just need to scan the bar-code and the details of the IED or bomb will be displayed on a monitor with a description of which criminal group used it, type of IED, elements used inside, source and how many were arrested

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SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO

TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPLE STORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE VIDEO LINK.



With her child on a bamboo structure, a mother washes clothes in floodwater in her house while another person enters a room to take out her belongings and move to a safe place in Shonpancha char of Bogura's Sariakandi yesterday. *Inset*, structures of a house being moved elsewhere on a boat as Padma erosion has taken a serious turn in Munshiganj's Tongibari upazila.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ, PALASH KHAN

Around 30pc of country to be flood affected

Padma, Jamuna to keep rising for 3 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 30 percent of the country's area is set to be inundated as the water level of the Jamuna and Padma is forecast to continue rising over the next three days.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said the overall flood situation will worsen in 11 districts -- Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Bogura, Tangail, Sirajganj, Pabna, Tangail, Manikganj, Faridpur and Shariatpur -- by today morning.

"The water level will increase for the next three days and by then around 30 percent of the country would be flooded," Arifuzzaman Bhuiyan, executive engineer of FFWC flood forecasting and warning centre, told The Daily Star.

Of 109 water measuring points in different rivers, water is flowing above the danger level at 16 points while water levels at another 50 points are increasing, the FFWC bulletin said.

Our correspondents from the flood affected districts reported that people of those districts have been forced to leave their homes due to their houses being flooded and a lack of food and drinking water. A few lakh people are enduring

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Their 2-week long nightmare finally ends

Six engineers stranded in Kabul come home



PORIMOL PALMA

The evacuation process of the six Bangladeshi engineers from Kabul could only be described as a nightmare in which they saw horrific events, including bomb blasts and killings.

On August 26, they were at the Kabul International Airport gate just half an hour before the bombs went off there.

"We were approaching the gate, but were alerted to move away by our company security. Around half an hour after leaving the gate, the bombs

exploded," said Razib Bin Islam, one of the six engineers who works for Afghan Wireless Communication Company, a US-Afghan joint venture mobile carrier.

He and five others -- Md Kamruzzaman, Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Imran Hossain, Abu Zafar Md Masud Karim and Shek Farid Uddin -- returned home midnight Tuesday after more than two weeks of desperate attempts to come home.

Foreigners and thousands of Afghans were fleeing the South Asian country

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Frustration grows in BNP grassroots

They wait for top leaders' decision on way forward

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP, out of power for the longest period since its inception four decades ago, is now in a quandary over whether to run in the next election after a movement or without one.

Some top leaders, like the grassroots, believe there is no alternative to launching a fierce movement to force the government to hold a free and fair election.

Some others, however, think that might not be plausible given the waning strength of the organisation. The party should rather focus on talks with the government and other stakeholders on how to ensure a level-playing field for all parties for the polls.

Meanwhile, the grassroots are frustrated because they have no clue about what the party is thinking even though the election is only around two years away -- in 2023.

"A free and fair election is not possible under this government and it is now clear to the world. So, in my view, there is no way but to launch a movement," Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, BNP organising secretary, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Wishing anonymity, a senior leader said the party is

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World's biggest triceratops on sale in Paris



AFP, Paris

A Paris auction house will seek to sell in October the world's biggest known example of the dinosaur triceratops, known as "Big John", with the spectacular skeleton on show to the public beforehand, organisers said Tuesday.

The triceratops is among the most distinctive of dinosaurs due to the three horns on its head -- one at the nose and two on the forehead -- that give the dinosaur its Latin name.

"Big John" is the largest known surviving example, 66 million years old and with a skeleton some eight metres long.

It will be on display starting October 18 at the

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ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Pakistan asks diplomats to surrender passports

SEPTEMBER 2, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

AN UNPRECEDENTED STEP

Evidently panic-stricken at the large-scale defection of Bangalee members of its mission staff, the Pakistan government today took an unprecedented step to seize passports of all its diplomatic staff abroad.

The government called upon its diplomats and other employees in the missions and their families to surrender their passports to heads of respective missions by September 7, 1971.

In a vain effort to make the measure appear non-discriminatory, the Pakistan high commission in London said, "This measure is applied to all Pakistani employees in all embassies, high commissions and missions everywhere. It doesn't discriminate against any person from any particular province of Pakistan."

'ACCEPTANCE OF DEFEAT' Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmed, in a press release issued today, termed the

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WHO worried about 'Mu' variant

Says it 'indicates potential properties of immune escape'

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization has said it is monitoring a new coronavirus variant known as "Mu", which was first identified in Colombia in January.

Mu, known scientifically as B.1.621, has been classified as a "variant of interest", the global health body said Tuesday in its weekly pandemic bulletin.

The WHO said the variant has mutations that indicate a risk of resistance to vaccines and

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 2

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:30 12:45 4:45 6:23 7:45
JAMAAT 5:05 1:15 5:00 6:26 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Several iron rod-laden rickshaw-vans go against the traffic on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway. The rickshaw-van pullers ignore the risk of accidents even though vehicles on the highway are at speed. The photo was captured from Matuail area recently.

PHOTO: PRABR DAS

Formation of new govt in final stages

Say Taliban as Biden vehemently defends US pullout

AGENCIES

The Taliban said the formation of Afghanistan's new government is in its final stages, as US President Joe Biden vehemently defended his decision to end the two-decade war amid growing criticism.

"The government will take shape in the following few days," Anas Haqqani, a senior Taliban leader, told Al Jazeera. He added that it was still too early to say who will be part of the new cabinet.

"We have covered about 90 to 95 percent and we will announce the final outcome in the following few days," Haqqani said.

The Islamist group said it wants to form an "inclusive" government and that it has been talking to members of former governments to encourage them to join a new administration. It has also pledged to respect human rights and women's freedoms "within Islamic law".

The foreign minister of neighbouring Pakistan, which has close ties to the Taliban, said on Tuesday he expected Afghanistan to have a new "consensus government" within days.

The Taliban yesterday paraded some of the military hardware they captured during their takeover of Afghanistan.

A long line of green Humvees idled in single file on a highway outside Kandahar, the spiritual birthplace of the militant movement, many with white-and-black Taliban flags attached to aerials, an AFP journalist saw.

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