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CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN

Donors pledge over \$1b in aid

WFP says 14m people 'on brink of starvation' after Taliban takeover

AGENCIES

Donors have pledged more than \$1.1 billion to help Afghanistan, where poverty and hunger have spiralled since the Islamist Taliban took power, and foreign aid has dried up, raising the spectre of a mass exodus.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, speaking halfway through a UN conference seeking \$606 million to meet Afghanistan's most pressing needs, said it was too early to say how much had been promised in response to the appeal.

After decades of war and suffering, Afghans are facing "perhaps their most perilous hour", he said.

"The people of Afghanistan are facing the collapse of an entire country — all at once."

He said food could run out by the end of this month, and the World Food Programme said 14 million people were on the brink of starvation.

The Taliban ruled Afghanistan according to their strict interpretation of Islamic law from 1996-2001 and were toppled in an invasion led by the United States, which accused them of sheltering militants behind the September 11 attacks.

They swept back to power last month in a lightning

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Hundreds of vessels moored next to each other in the Karnaphuli makes a sight to behold but such anchoring of ships renders passage of other vessels difficult and rather risky at night. The photo was taken recently from the Bariki Building area of Chattogram city.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Medvedev foils Djokovic's record bid

AFP, New York

Daniil Medvedev shattered Novak Djokovic's Grand Slam dream with a straight sets victory in the US Open final here Sunday, denying the world number one a record-breaking 21st major men's singles title.

Russia's second-ranked Medvedev dominated Djokovic 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 to prevent the first calendar-year Grand Slam since 1969 and keep Djokovic level with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal atop the career Slam title list.

"Sorry for you fans and Novak because we all know what he was going for," Medvedev said.

"What you have

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Draft policy for OTT platforms already made

Says info minister; govt to prosecute people spreading rumours from abroad

STAR REPORT

The government has drafted a policy to regulate over-the-top platforms, which allows viewers to stream contents through the internet.

In addition, the government has taken the decision to begin prosecuting individuals involved in spreading rumours from abroad.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday informed the above during a meeting of his ministry at the Secretariat, reports BSS.

Examples of OTT platforms are Netflix, Hoichoi, Amazon Prime, etc.

"OTT platform is now a reality of growing demand. But, there has been no approval system for releasing cinema, drama, web series or any other content on OTT platform till now. We've already made a primary draft on the policy for OTT platform," he told newsmen.

The minister hoped that his ministry could issue a notification of the policy soon.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Podgorny calls for 'speediest political settlement'

SEPTEMBER 14, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

YAHYA IN TEHRAN
Pakistan President Yahya Khan flew to Tehran today for a two-day visit, and was met at the Airport by the Shah of Iran. Informed sources said the two leaders were expected to discuss the Bangladesh crisis.

The Tehran Journal said the forthcoming 2500th anniversary celebrations of the Persian empire in October 1971 could provide a favourable opportunity to arrange a meeting between Yahya Khan and Indian leaders attending the celebration.

PODGORNY-ZAHIR SHAH MEETING
Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny today called for the "speediest political settlement" in Bangladesh as a condition for preservation of peace in South Asia.

He was speaking at a kremlin banquet in honour of the visiting Afghan King, Muhammed Zahir Shah.

The Soviet president said, "An aggravation of the situation in the Asian subcontinent has taken place lately." The problem of refugees, he observed, rose in connection with known events in Bangladesh.

King Zahir Shah in his reply to the Soviet president's banquet speech, said, "In our opinion any use of military pressure for the solution of disputes leads to dangerous consequences. All differences should be resolved politically with due regard for the

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Child tortured by stepmother dies at DMCH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A two-and-a-half-year-old girl died Sunday at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital after fighting for her life for a month following alleged abuse by her stepmother in Gazipur.

Marium Akter, daughter of Mostafa Kamal who works in Dubai, was undergoing treatment at DMCH for the last month. She died around 6:30pm on Sunday, said Mohammad Ali Jinnah, a sub-inspector of Sreepur Police Station.

On August 14, Mostafa Kamal's father Afaz Uddin filed a case against his daughter-in-law, Alifa Akter Ripa, 30, with Sreepur Police Station, saying she had abused the child to create pressure on her husband to transfer ownership of a multi-storey building Mostafa had constructed in Sreepur to her.

Mostafa, who has been

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Scientists discover 26-foot-long 'shark-toothed' dinosaur

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have discovered a new gigantic dinosaur with shark-like teeth that lived 90 million years ago and was an apex predator of its time, ruling the food chain on land before the advent of the Tyrannosaurus rex.

A fossil jawbone of the beast, now named *Ulughbegsaurus uzbekistanensis*, was unearthed in Uzbekistan, representing the first record of an apex predator dinosaur of this era from Central Asia.

According to the researchers, including Kohei Tanaka from the State Geological Museum of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan,

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Med colleges reopen for in-person classes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

First, second and final year students of all medical colleges and other health institutions across the country resumed their in-person classes yesterday with much enthusiasm after about one and a half years.

All educational institutions, including all 43 public and 70 private medical colleges and about 40 health education institutes, were closed on March 17 last year to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Since then, medical colleges and other institutions had been conducting most of their classes online.

"We conducted academic activities virtually during the long closure. However, students of different batches used to attend practical classes before exams and take exams in person. From now on, all the three batches

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EMBEZZLING VIA MLM

Ragib, three brothers on 7-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A Pirojpur court yesterday granted a seven-day remand for Ehsan Group Chairman Ragib Ahsan and his three brothers in a money embezzlement case.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Mohiuddin passed the order after the four brothers were produced before his court, said Public Prosecutor Khan M Alauddin.

The PP said the case was

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Many of the old trees on Indira Road between Farmgate intersection and Khamar Bari intersection have been chopped down for development work. The logs have been kept beside the pavement of the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Park which is being used as a construction site for the metro rail project. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Star HEALTHLINE

Time to rethink Ivermectin in COVID-19 TREATMENT?

SHEIKH MOHAMMAD FAZLE AKBAR and PROF MAMUN AL MAHTAB

After the emergence of the pandemic, several repurposed antiviral drugs such as hydroxychloroquine, ivermectin, favipiravir, remdesivir, nitazoxanide, and lopinavir/ritonavir were provided emergency authorisation approval as there was no direct antiviral drug for Covid-19.

Hydroxychloroquine is no more used and limited efficacy of most of these drugs have been reported.

At this moment,

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BEACON
Pharmaceuticals Limited

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 14

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:30	6:14	7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:17	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION