

Shipbreaking

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“He sustained a severe injury after the fall and was taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead at 10:00pm on Saturday,” he further said.

Court orders

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of Taka everyday” was posted on The Daily Star’s official Facebook page on September 16, following a report published by the newspaper in this regard on August 31.
In the report and video story, The Daily Star explained how the hackers collect an expatriate’s number through the app and hack the targeted ID by sending an OTP (one-time password). They then spend a week observing conversations made from the ID.
Finally, they call relatives of the user from the ID and concoct various scenarios, such as accidents or illnesses, to embezzle large sums of money.

After reviewing the news, the court in its observation mentioned that an organised fraud ring, spread across the upazila, has been hacking into different accounts on social media app imo and stealing thousands of taka from people, including many expatriates, every day.
This is a punishable offense under various sections of the Penal Code and Sections 23 and 34 of the Digital Security Act.
Penalties for offences under Section 23 of the DSA are five years’ imprisonment and a fine of Tk 5 lakh and for offences under Section 34 are 14 years’ imprisonment and a fine of Tk 1 crore.

In order to take legal action against the organised ring, the court asked Lalpur Police Station’s officer-in-charge to have the case filed by someone who is not below the rank of sub-inspector.
Liton Kumar Saha, superintendent of police in Natore, said police will take all necessary action as per the court’s order.

Journo bodies

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The rally was organised by Jatiya Press Club, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Journalists Union.
BFUJ President Molla Jalal said the Financial Intelligence Unit’s move was unprecedented. “We want an explanation from the government.”
Other speakers said the move was targeted towards particular organisations and demanded that the bank account details of government officials also get published.
Many journalists have lost their jobs while others are not being paid regularly amid the pandemic, they said, adding that such a move would create an unhealthy and alarming environment for journalists.
On September 12, the Financial Intelligence Unit issued letters to all banks seeking details of bank accounts belonging to 11 journalists who head different journalist associations.

Military convoy

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ousted party called for a “people’s defensive war” and urged civilians to target junta assets.
Communications towers belonging to the military-owned Mytel company have been targeted across Myanmar.
Conflict has also intensified in the Sagaing and Magway regions, where locals this week accused the military of burning down homes and displacing thousands.
“The military has been crushing our region because of the local resistance forces,” a 25-year-old woman from Magway’s Gangaw township told AFP.
“I lost some of my friends... I am heartbroken because I had witnessed all their atrocities with my own eyes.”
Another Gangaw township resident said in one of its hardest-hit villages, Namg Kar, scores of homes have been razed since September 10 -- a start-stop process over the past week as monsoon rains kept dousing the flames.
“They tried to burn down the whole village. But it was rainy season,” said the resident, adding that Namg Kar’s 4,000 residents have fled to a nearby jungle.
“They are afraid of the army as they could come back any time to the village,” he said.

French daredevil

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He said obtaining the necessary authorisations had been a difficulty for him, plus “the stress linked to the audience, the fact that there are a lot of people”.
Paulin, holder of several world records, performed the feat to celebrate France’s annual Heritage Day - when people are invited to visit historic buildings and monuments that are usually closed to the public.
He said his motivation was “mainly to do something beautiful and to share it and also to bring a new perspective on heritage, it is to make heritage come alive”.
He had already crossed the River Seine on a tightrope, on Heritage Day in 2017.



A health worker carries a migrant seeking asylum in the US near the International Bridge between Mexico and the US, where migrants are waiting to be processed, in Del Rio, Texas, US on Saturday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hong Kong elite selects powerful new ‘patriots only’ committee

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong’s political elite began selecting a powerful committee yesterday which will choose the city’s next leader and nearly half the legislature under a new “patriots only” system imposed by Beijing.
The financial hub has never been a democracy -- the source of years of protests -- but a small and vocal opposition was tolerated after the city’s 1997 handover to authoritarian China.
Huge and often violent democracy rallies exploded two years ago and Beijing responded with a crackdown and a new political system where only those deemed loyal are allowed to stand for office.
The first poll under that new system -- carrying the slogan “Patriots rule Hong Kong” -- took place yesterday as members of the city’s ruling classes cast votes for a 1,500-seat Election Committee.

In December, that committee will appoint 40 of the city’s 90 legislators -- 30 others will be chosen by special interest groups and just 20 will be directly elected. The following year, it will pick Hong Kong’s next Beijing-approved leader.
Beijing insists the new political system is more representative and will ensure “anti-China” elements are not allowed into office.
Critics say it leaves no room for the pro-democracy opposition, turning Hong Kong into a mirror of the authoritarian Communist Party-ruled mainland.

“Hong Kongers are completely cut off from electoral operations,” Nathan Law, a prominent democracy leader who fled to Britain last year, told AFP.
“All election runners will become puppet showmen under Beijing’s entire control... with no meaningful competition.”
Ted Hui, a former lawmaker who moved to Australia, said Hong Kong’s political system was now “a rubber-stamp game completely controlled by Beijing”.

“It’s more than a managed democracy. It’s an autocracy trying to pretend to be civilised,” Hui told AFP.
Back in 2016, some 233,000 Hong Kongers were allowed to select the Election Committee.
That figure has now been trimmed to around 4,800 -- 0.06 percent of Hong Kong’s 7.5 million population. Police said 6,000 officers were on standby to ensure there were no protests or disruptions.
When polls closed yesterday evening, authorities said turnout among the select group of electors was 86 percent.
“This is an important election although the number of people eligible to join is not large,” Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam told reporters, adding the new system would ensure “anti-China troublemakers” would no longer be able to “obstruct” the government.

The vast majority of seats in yesterday’s vote were a one-horse race, with just 364 contested. The rest will be installed ex officio or chosen by special interest groups.
As a result, the committee will be even more stacked than previously with reliable pro-Beijing votes, including loyalist lawmakers and members of national bodies as well as representatives from business, professional and religious groups.
Local media reported that people linked to the city’s powerful business tycoon families will wield less power than previously.
China promised Hong Kong would maintain key liberties and autonomy for 50 years after its handover.
But, in the wake of the 2019 protests, Beijing began transforming the city into something more like the authoritarian mainland.
China’s leaders were also stung by pro-democracy candidates winning a landslide the same year in district council elections -- the city’s only bodies predominantly selected by universal suffrage.
On top of the new political system, China has also imposed a sweeping national security law that has criminalised much dissent.
Multiple opposition figures have been jailed, dozens of pro-democracy groups and outlets -- including the city’s most popular newspaper -- have been shuttered and tens of thousands of Hong Kongers have left the city.
Others have been disqualified from public office for their political views.
Civil society groups have also been prosecuted and dozens have disbanded.

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UN worried

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(UPR) will improve the situation, Mia Seppo said. Bangladesh also supported the UPR recommendations meant to ensure that the law is international human rights standard compliant.
The UN also discussed it with the law ministry on implementing the recommendations and stands ready to support the review.
“It is important to recognise that there is fundamental freedom that is freedom of expression and opinion.
“The challenge is striking the balance between some control over digital space as well as respecting this right. Based on the UPR review, our view is that the DSA falls short of finding the balance at this current time. We hope indeed that the review will now proceed.”

Mia said the UN also is calling on its member states, including Bangladesh, to take the opportunity to ratify this convention on enforced disappearances, while also encouraging the civil society on reaching out to the UN Special Procedure with these issues.
Bangladesh also reported to the UN Committee Against Torture and there is an opportunity to follow up some HR issues there, she said and expected the government to take anti-discrimination law to the parliament, another key recommendation from the UPR.
Asked if the UN would provide electoral assistance to Bangladesh, she said the UN does not provide electoral assistance unless it is asked to, but stands ready to do so, should such request be forthcoming.
She said repatriation of the Rohingyas [1.1 million Rohingyas live in Bangladesh] has become more complex with the military coup and a civil war-like situation in Myanmar.
The resident coordinator said the UN is at the final stages of starting operations for the Rohingyas in Bhasan Char. The UN is already in talks with Bangladeshi NGOs working in Bhasan Char in this regard.
She said the Bangladesh government has made huge investments in Bhasan Char to make it a livable place, but there was, rather, negative publicity.
As Bangladesh graduates from the LDC status, it will have opportunities but also face the challenges of inequality. The Covid-19 recovery, therefore, needs to be inclusive, Mia said.
DCAB President Pantho Rahaman and its General Secretary AKM Moinuddin also spoke.

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Nations urged to recognise

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In the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini ambushed a Pakistani patrol north of Thakurgaon, killing six of the enemy and injuring four. On the same day, grenades were thrown at the Thakurgaon powerhouse causing extensive damage. Another group of Mukti Bahini damaged a railway bridge and removed railway tracks, paralysing railway communication around Lalmonirhat junction.
In another operation, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani troops at Jagdalhat and Panchagarh area on the night of 19th September. In that action 11 enemy soldiers were killed, 19 injured and two weapons including 750 rounds of bullets were captured.
In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini ambushed Pakistani troops in Harichandrapur and killed two.
In the Mymensingh-Sylhet sector, Mukti Bahini today raided the Pakistani position in Kalighat Tea Garden area and killed five Pakistani troops. Another group of Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani troops near Gauripur and inflicted five casualties on them.

SENATOR KENNEDY URGED FOR RELIEF SUPPORT
Senator Edward Kennedy today introduced a bill to authorise \$400 million to assist the International Refugee Relief Effort in India. He said, “New estimates of our Government now put the cost to India, of caring for the refugee, at the staggering total of \$830,000,000 during the current fiscal year -- a cost equal to the annual contribution of the aid consortium for India’s economic development. Simple humanity demands that we and the international community must face the simple truth that this refugee burden cannot be borne by India alone.”
Shamsuddozza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

Nigerian kidnappers free 10 more students

AFP, Kano

Gunmen who kidnapped more than 100 students from a high school in northwest Nigeria months ago have released 10 more of the hostages, the head of a parents association said yesterday.
Scores of assailants stormed Bethel Baptist High School on July 5 on the outskirts of Kaduna city, abducting 121 students who were sleeping in their dorms.
The incident was part of a string of kidnappings by armed gangs known locally as bandits terrorising northwest

and central Nigeria, looting, stealing cattle and seizing residents.
The gangs have recently targeted schools and colleges, abducting students to squeeze ransoms from parents and authorities.
Joseph Hayab, the head of the high school’s parents association, said 10 students were freed on Saturday, as kidnappers release the hostages in batches.
He told AFP they had been reunited with their families.
So far 100 of the kidnapped students have been freed or escaped from their abductors.

Israel recaptures last two prison-break fugitives

AFP, Jerusalem

All six Palestinian fugitives who escaped a high-security Israeli jail through a tunnel dug under a sink are back in custody, after the Israeli army said yesterday it had recaptured the last two.
The inmates, who were being held for attacks against the Jewish state, became heroes among many Palestinians when reports emerged they had burrowed out using tools as basic as a spoon.
The full weight of Israel’s security arsenal was deployed to catch them, including aerial drones, checkpoints on roads and an army mission to Jenin where many of the men grew up.
The massive manhunt lasted almost a fortnight, with four of the six recaptured last week.
In a tweet yesterday, the Israel Defence Forces said the last two had surrendered “after being surrounded by security forces that acted precisely based on accurate intelligence”.
The men, 35-year-old Ayham Kamamji and 26-year-old Munadel Infeiat, are both members of Islamic Jihad, an armed Palestinian Islamist movement.
They were arrested in a joint operation with counterterrorism forces in Jenin, in the West Bank, the army said in a statement to the press, and were “currently being interrogated”.
Two other men who had helped the fugitives were also detained, it added.
Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett congratulated the security forces on Twitter, saying the operation was “impressive, sophisticated and speedy”.
All six fugitives were members of Palestinian militant groups who were convicted by Israeli courts of plotting or carrying out attacks against Israelis.
Originally from Kafr Dan, near Jenin, Kamamji was arrested in 2006 and jailed for life for the kidnap and murder of a young Israeli settler,

Eliahu Asheri.
Islamic Jihad said Kamamji suffered abdominal and intestinal illness in jail and was subject to “medical negligence” by prison authorities.
Infeiat, arrested last year, had been jailed multiple times previously for his role in the armed group, and was awaiting sentencing at the time of the escape.
The other four men recaptured last week included Mahmud Abdullah Ardah, the alleged mastermind of the escape, and Zakaria Zubeidi, who headed the armed wing of the Fatah movement of Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas.
Zubeidi was found hiding in a lorry park just outside Nazareth in northern Israel along with one of the other men, Mohammad Ardah, who was sentenced to life in prison in 2002 for his role in Islamic Jihad’s armed wing.
Questions remain over how the embarrassing incident could have happened, and a formal inquiry has been announced.
A lawyer for Yaqub Qadri, the sixth escapee, told Palestinian television that the inmates had not planned to escape when they did on September 6.
She said they rushed ahead with it on that day because they feared guards had become suspicious and noticed changes in their cell.
The break-out had been planned for months, Ardah’s lawyer told AFP.
“Mahmud told me he started digging (the tunnel) in December,” he said.
Ardah told him he used spoons, plates and even the handle of a kettle to dig the tunnel from his jail cell.
Spoons have since become a symbol of Palestinian resistance, with protesters both inside and outside the Palestinian territories carrying them at demonstrations.
It has also inspired artwork -- for example in Kuwait, where artist Maitham Abdal has sculpted a giant hand firmly clasping a spoon -- the “spoon of freedom”, as he calls it.

BEPZA

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The farmland belongs to the industries ministry, Ashraf Kabir, project director of the Rangpur EPZ, told The Daily Star.
Asked if the industries ministry has handed over the land to the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority, he said: “It is in the final stage.”
Once the land has been handed over, the final project will be passed by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council, he added.
Contacted, Zakia Sultana, secretary for the industries ministry, said a decision has not been taken yet.
“The BEPZA wanted the land of three to four big sugar mills to set up EPZs. We are still going through their proposal,” she added.
Disputes over the land will be resolved in consultation with the people living in the area and the local representatives, said Md. Nazrul Islam, executive chairman of the BEPZA, while visiting the farmland last month.
The EPZ would create employment for more than 2 lakh people, he said, adding that many local and foreign companies are showing interest in setting up plants in the zone.
The BEPZA has been asked to start work on building the EPZ as soon as possible, said Nazma Binte Alamgir, its general manager for public relations.

Advertisement for Umuja Darpara Biddhanti (OTM) featuring a table with columns for item number, name, quantity, unit price, and total price. Includes contact information for the Bangladesh Police and a signature.