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Weeks gone, PM's directive not carried out

Ministers now say RT-PCR lab can't be installed at place designated at airport

RASHIDUL HASAN

Over two weeks after the prime minister instructed to set up RT-PCR laboratories at the Dhaka airport within two to three days, two ministers said yesterday that the current venue is not suitable and will be shifted elsewhere in the airport.

Therefore, the fate of around 35,000 Bangladeshi expatriates waiting to return to their workplaces in the United Arab Emirates continues to be in limbo.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) had offered the rooftop of the two-storey car park to the north of the main building of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in the capital as the venue for Covid-19 tests of outgoing passengers.

The expatriates waiting to return to the UAE alleged that the situation has arisen due to a serious lack of coordination among the ministries and departments concerned.

Lending credibility to their assertion is the fact that just three days after Caab Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman said that the labs would be operational in three to four days, Expatriate Welfare Affairs Minister Imran Ahmad and Health Minister Zahid Maleque said the venue is not suitable yesterday.

The organisations chosen by the health directorate to conduct the Covid-19 tests had earlier also said the same.

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A huge quantity of hilsa in Chandpur's Boro Station Machh Ghat causes a reduction of price by Tk 3,000 to Tk 4,000 per mound. Wholesalers purchase the fish from the market and send those across the country. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ALAM PALASH

UP ELECTIONS 3 quarters of AL runners become chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League candidates won 76 percent chairman posts in Monday's 156 union parishad elections.

Elections were held in 160 unions, but results of four union parishads were withheld for various reasons, including violence, Election Commission officials said yesterday.

The polls were the final part of the first phase postponed due to the pandemic.

Independent chairman contenders bagged 23 percent chairman posts and those from Workers Party of Bangladesh the rest.

BNP and several other parties boycotted the polls.

According to the EC statistics, AL chairman candidates became victorious in 119 unions. Of them, 43 were elected unopposed.

It also shows that 36 independent candidates

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Moner School gets global recognition

Co-founder Faizah wins Gates foundation's award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fairooz Faizah Beether of Bangladesh has been announced the winner of 2021 Goalkeepers Global Goals Changemaker Award by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



The Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards are an annual recognition of remarkable individuals taking action to help achieve the Global Goals by 2030.

With the 2021 Changemaker Award, the Gates Foundation recognises Fairooz Faizah Beether for her work promoting good health and well-being under the Sustainable Development Goal- 3 (SDG-3), according to a press release.

Faizah has co-founded Moner School, an online platform that aims to raise awareness about mental health and ensure equal access to mental health care across the country.

Faizah was among the three who were given this year's three additional

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

'It is a conflict between two states'

SEPTEMBER 21, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH WANTS INDEPENDENCE AND NOTHING ELSE: FATEH

Abul Fateh, one of the principal delegates of Bangladesh to the UN, told a news conference in New Delhi today that nothing short of independence would satisfy the people of Bangladesh. "Our purpose is to make a massive effort to present our case to the world. This is in addition to our military measure to free our country from Pakistan," he added.

He pointed out that when the conflict started in March it took the form of genocide by an ethnic minority against the majority. Hence, it was not an internal issue. The international convention on genocide also gives it the colour of an international issue.

"This is the way we view it," Fateh said. "It is a conflict between two states."

BHUTTO'S DOUBTS OVER 'RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY' Pakistan People's Party Chairman ZA Bhutto today voiced his feeling that chances of restoration of parliamentary government in the country were slim if transfer of power to elected representatives was not implemented by the end of December.

He made the assertion when asked to comment on the revised timetable which delayed by-elections to the National Assembly from East Pakistan by two weeks. He insisted that the National Assembly must meet before the end of the year. He said the situation prevalent in East Pakistan should not be allowed to delay the elections.

"If elections can be held in Vietnam, they can be held in East

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'They tried to kill Sinha labelling him as a robber'

Witness tells court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Labelling him as "robber", some locals, patronised by police, tried to kill Maj (ret'd) Sinha Rashed Khan in a mob beating, hours before he was shot dead.

Maulana Hafez Jahirul Islam, an eyewitness of Sinha murder, testified before the Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday, said sources.

The plotters are Nurul Amin, Nezam Uddin, and Ayaz Uddin. All three of them were later made accused in the Sinha murder case.

Jahirul, of Marishbunia village at Teknaf's Baharchhara union, is an imam of a local mosque.

According to a court source, Jahirul testified that the trio - Nurul

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Japanese sisters certified as world's oldest twins



AP, Tokyo

Guinness World Records has certified two Japanese sisters as the world's oldest living identical twins at 107, in an announcement Monday coinciding with Respect for the Aged Day, a national holiday in Japan.

Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama were born the third and fourth of 11 siblings on Shodoshima island in western Japan on November 5, 1913.

They were separated after elementary school, when Kodama was sent to work as a maid in Oita on Japan's southern main island of Kyushu. She later married there, while Sumiyama remained on the island where they grew up and had her own

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Why no steps taken against misleading ads?

HC asks authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of offensive, fraudulent, confusing and misleading advertisements to attract consumers, fostering unfair trade practices.

The court issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 22

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Pro-JP leader arrested over rape of teen

Two more girls raped

STAR REPORT

A Jatiya Swachchhasebak Party leader has been arrested on charge of raping a teenager for months.

A team of Rab-14 held Hossain Ali, 50, president of the party's Mymensingh district unit, from the city early Monday.

Earlier, father of the 14-year-old girl lodged a complaint with Rab-14.

After interrogation, Rab handed over the arrestee to Kotwali Police Station.

The girl's father then lodged a rape case with the police station, accusing Ali and his wife Tamanna Begum, said Shah Kamal Akanda, officer-in-charge of the station.

In the afternoon, the arrestee was produced before a Mymensingh court, which sent him to jail, police said.

Quoting the case statement, the OC said Ali first raped the girl, who was a neighbour, in January this year and filmed the

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Fire fighters conducting a rescue operation at Narandia in Tangail's Kalihati upazila as a bus turned turtle in a roadside ditch yesterday morning. One passenger was killed and 15 more were injured in the accident. Story on page 4.

PHOTO: STAR

'Thank you, Canada'

Says Trudeau after winning another minority in election, claims 'clear mandate'

REUTERS, Montreal

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hung onto power on Monday as his main rival conceded defeat. Trudeau said he had won a clear mandate to govern although he fell short of his goal for a majority win.

Trudeau, in power since 2015 and governing with a minority of House of Commons seats since 2019, decided to gamble on an early vote and capitalize on his government's handling of the pandemic, which included massive spending to support individuals and businesses and a push for high vaccination rates.

Instead, he will end up where he started after an unexpectedly tight election race characterized by a lackluster campaign and voter anger at an election during a pandemic.

"Thank you, Canada — for casting your vote, for putting your trust in the Liberal team, for choosing a brighter future," Trudeau said in an early morning tweet.

Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole, whose party placed second, conceded defeat as results trickled in late into the night. Trudeau spoke to supporters shortly after, pledging to work with other parties for the good of all Canadians.

During a small gathering in a hotel ballroom, he said:

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