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SHAH CEMENT

Network of illegal handsets barred

SHAHID BAPPY

Illegal handsets will not get network connectivity from today as the government look to curb the menace of duty-dodging while importing mobile phones, which also undercuts the competitiveness of the locally assembled devices.

With that end, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) on July 1 installed the National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR), a central database for International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI), a unique 15-digit identification or serial number inbuilt in mobile phones.

At present, the import tariff for smartphones amounts to about 57 percent, while for feature phones it is about 35 percent.

In preparation for the rollout of the NEIR, the telecom regulator has registered all handsets in use in the local networks until June 30.

The trial period of NEIR, which was developed by Synesis IT, ended yesterday.

Between July 1 and September 30, 1.08 crore handsets were activated in Bangladesh, according to data from the BTRC.

Of them, the proof of import of 29 percent of them is yet to be established.

"I have told the BTRC to ensure that consumers do not suffer while trying to stop the illegal import of handsets," Mustafa Jabbar, the posts and telecommunications minister, told The Daily Star yesterday.

All shops that sell mobile phones should hang the notice of how to verify the legitimacy of the handsets should be made compulsory in all the shops, he said.

Before buying a new handset from the local market, customers have been urged to verify its legitimacy by sending a text message to 16002 containing the following: KYD(space)15 digit IMEI number.

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Health workers testing samples at the RT-PCR lab at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. The lab was set up after the UAE made it mandatory for arriving passengers to have been tested for Covid-19 six hours before boarding the plane. The UAE approved operations of the RT-PCR laboratories at the Dhaka airport.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Bangladesh positive of quick start

ANISUR RAHMAN from Male

A revitalised Bangladesh are set to begin their SAFF Championship campaign with hopes of a winning start in their opening match against a new-look Sri Lanka at the National Football Stadium in Male today.

The match will get underway at 5:00pm (Bangladesh Standard Time) before the second game between Maldives and Nepal at the same venue. Maldives is hosting

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Boy tortured by madrasa teacher

Lands in hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A four-and-a-half-year-old boy was admitted to Trishal Upazila Health Complex with serious injuries after a madrasa teacher beat him with a stick on Tuesday afternoon.

Ismail Hossain has injuries all over his body with particularly severe markings on his face, Medical Officer Abdullah Al Monsur told The Daily Star.

Mufti Abu Sayeed, 28, the teacher of Markajus Shyk Hossain Madani Madrasa who tortured the boy, had fled the area, locals said, adding that the perpetrator's village home is in Sylhet.

Locals said the teacher asked the boy to bring him a cup of tea. The boy brought the tea and was handing it to the teacher when it fell to the ground. The teacher then started beating him with a stick and at one stage Ismail fell down a flight of stairs.

Hearing the screams for help, neighbours rushed to the scene and took Ismail to the hospital.

ABM Arifur Rahman Selim, president of the madrasa management committee, said he would see to it that the boy is treated well.

Locals said the boy was raised by his grandmother who admitted him to the madrasa three months ago.

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Podgorny for equitable solution of Bangladesh issue

OCTOBER 1, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

PODGORNY OFFERS ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE

Speaking at a banquet hosted in his honour by Indian President VV Giri in Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny today offered all possible assistance "to an equitable political settlement" of Bangladesh "in the spirit of existing friendly relation with India". He made it clear that the settlement must be based on legitimate rights and interest of the people in Bangladesh.

CHOWDHURY STRESSES 3 CONDITIONS OF SETTLEMENT
Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, leader of the 16-member Bangladesh delegation to the UN, said today in New York that any political solution which did not envisage the recognition of Bangladesh as an independent country, the immediate and unconditional release of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and withdrawal of occupation forces would not be acceptable to the people of Bangladesh.

Addressing a well-attended press conference at the UN, Justice Chowdhury said President Yahya Khan was trying to divert the attention of the world by saying that he was prepared to discuss the refugee problem with India. "We want to make it clear with full sense of responsibility that no country, India or any other, has any right to speak for Bangladesh," he added.

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MOBILE DATA SPEED Bangladesh one of the worst in world

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has one of the worst mobile internet speed among 110 countries surveyed by the recently published 2021 Digital Quality of Life index.

The overall ranking of Bangladesh is 103rd among the 110 countries.

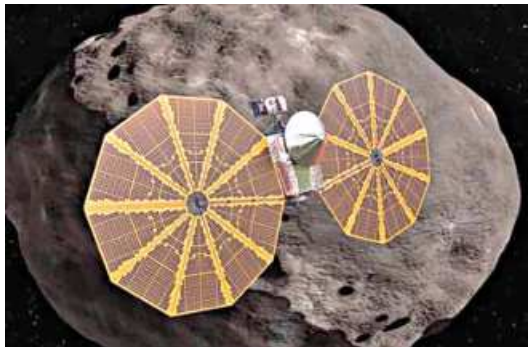
India ranked 59th, Sri Lanka 88th and Pakistan 97th.

Bangladesh's rank dropped 25 places from last year and currently, it ranks 30th among 32 Asian countries. However, Bangladesh has ranked 16th in internet stability and 43rd in the broadband internet growth category.

Digital Quality of Life Index is a report published by Surfshark, a globally acclaimed VPN service company. The report indexes 110 countries of the world by looking at five fundamental pillars that define the digital quality

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Nasa's Lucy mission to probe Jupiter's Trojan asteroids



AFP, Washington

Nasa is poised to send its first spacecraft to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids to glean new insights into the solar system's formation 4.5 billion years ago, the space agency said Tuesday.

The probe, called Lucy after an ancient fossil that provided insights into the evolution of human species, will launch on October 16 from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

Its mission is to investigate the group of rocky bodies circling the Sun in two swarms, one preceding Jupiter in its orbital path and the other trailing behind it.

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MONEY LAUNDERING Charges against ex-minister's brother, 9 others accepted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted charges against 10 people, including Khandaker Mohtesam Hossain Babar, the brother of former Awami League minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, in a Tk 2,000 crore money laundering case.

Sajjad Hossain alias Barkat, the ex-general secretary of Faridpur town Awami League unit, and his brother Imtiaz Hasan alias Rubel, a former president of Faridpur Press Club, are among the accused.

The seven others are AHM Fuad, Mosharraf's assistant personal secretary and former convener of Faridpur district Jubo League; Khandakar Nazmul Islam Levi, former Faridpur town Jubo League president; Ashiqur Rahman Farhan, former general secretary of Faridpur town

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Man killed in Cox's Bazar 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Border Guard Bangladesh men shot dead an unidentified man in what officers said was a "shootout" with drug traffickers in Cox's Bazar Wednesday night.

Fifty thousand yaba pills and a locally-made gun with two bullets were recovered at the scene near the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Karibunia area of Ukhia upazila, said Commander Lt Col Ali Haider Azad Ahmed of BGB Battalion-34.

"A BGB team took position in Karibunia area on Wednesday around 8:00pm after receiving information that a yaba

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 1

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:45	12:30	4:15	5:53	7:30
JAMAAT 5:20	1:15	4:30	5:56	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A hoopoe, popularly known as hudhud bird, catches an insect in a grass field in Khulna. This colourful bird, which lives in holes in trees or walls, feeds on insects, small reptiles, frogs, etc. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF HABIBUR RAHMAN

Star HEALTHLINE

Snoring: Why it happens AND WHAT CAN BE DONE

STAR HEALTH DESK

Have you ever heard your family members complain about how you transform into a tractor at night in your sleep? Well, according to research, 45 percent of adults snore at night. So, cheer up; you are not the only one who snores.

There are tissues present in the nasal airway. At night when you sleep, the muscles relax, causing the passageway to contract, and the tissues to vibrate. These friendly vibrations translate into the low-pitched

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HygineX

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