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## SAND, STONE FROM MEGHALAYA Carried by flash flood, damaging cropland

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

It was a rainy night in July 2008. Residents of some bordering villages in Sunamganj's Tahirpur upazila heard a sound of landslide coming from a hill across the border.

Within minutes, a flash flood carried stones and sand mixed with coal chips onto Bangladesh through a small transboundary canal named Nayachhara.

That night, vast areas of farmland were covered in sand, ponds were filled and houses were buried knee-deep in sand in Chanpur village.

The canal, the only tributary to Pochashol Beel of Tanguar Haor, was also filled with sand.

Since then, this has been recurring every rainy season.

Locals and environmentalists blamed the landslides on open cast limestone and coal mining and razing of hillocks in the Khasi Hills districts of India's Meghalaya.

According to locals, Chandpur, Rajani Line, Jangalbari, Charagaon, Maram, Burungachhara, and Shantipur are the villages most affected in Tahirpur.

The Nayachhara canal and Pochashol Beel have also been filled up with sand over the years. Parts of Tekeghat road, the only road for communication between the three bordering upazilas in the district, have also been damaged badly.

This year alone, at least 400 acres of land, mostly farmland, has been covered with sand, locals said.

Md Khasrul Alam, chairman of Sreepur Uttar union in Tahirpur upazila, said: "The most alarming issue is the loss of navigability in most parts of the Jadukata and Patlai rivers. Besides, the Maharam river was filled up with sand several years ago."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Locals in Sunamganj's Tahirpur upazila collecting pebbles and stones from a farmland that is now covered with sand. During flash floods, sand, stone and coal from the Khasi Hills of India's Meghalaya wash into the area, resulting in degradation of farmlands, roads and houses. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

## QCOOM SCAM RJ Nirob arrested

Minister says govt won't take responsibilities for e-commerce losses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested Humayun Kabir alias RJ Nirob, head of sales (communications and public relations) at controversial e-commerce platform Qcoom, early yesterday after an aggrieved customer sued him and five others, including Qcoom owner, for fraudulence.



Later in the day, Nirob was produced before a Dhaka court, which placed him on one-day remand for questioning, said Hafiz Al Faruq, additional deputy commissioner of police (Tejgaon division).

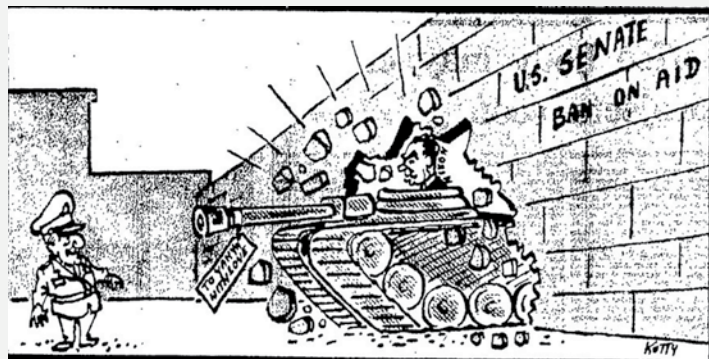
He said they arrested Nirob, 38, at his house at Noboday Housing in the capital's Adabar area around 3:00am after a Qcoom customer filed a case against six people with Tejgaon Industrial Police Station.

The other accused are: Qcoom owner Ripan Mia, his wife Syeda Tasmina

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

ROAD TO FREEDOM  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Nothing short of complete independence: Nazrul Islam



CARTOON SOURCE: THE HINDUSTHAN STANDARD

OCTOBER 9, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

NAZRUL ISLAM REITERATES STAND

Syed Nazrul Islam, acting president of Bangladesh, reiterated that nothing short of complete independence would settle the Bangladesh issue. He said that there could not be any compromise with the West Pakistani marauders against whom the 75 million people of Bangladesh had launched their struggle and they would be wiped out from the sacred soil of Bangladesh.

Syed Nazrul was addressing a passing out parade of the Mukti Bahini officers. Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad was also present at

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Covid death toll drops to single digits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After 205 days, the daily Covid-19 death toll dropped to single digits yesterday.

The Director General of Health Services (DGHS) recorded seven deaths from coronavirus in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a DGHS press release.

On March 11, the health department recorded six deaths.

The total number of Covid-19 deaths in the country now stands at 27,654 and the death rate is 1.77 percent, according to the DGHS press release.

The highest death toll 264 was recorded in August.

Meanwhile, at least 645 new infections were recorded during those 24 hours, taking the total number of infected people to 1,561,463, added the release.

A total of 23,302

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## New species found fossilised in 16m-yr-old amber



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A microscopic new species has been discovered after being preserved in amber for millions of years in what scientists are calling a "once-in-a-generation" find.

The micro-animal, which measures just over half a millimetre long, is a previously unknown species of tardigrade: eight-legged creatures also known as water bears which have been known to survive apocalyptic conditions.

The discovery, which was made by scientists at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and Harvard University, is just the third fossilised tardigrade on record.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## India, China troops face off on border

THE HINDU ONLINE

Indian and Chinese soldiers engaged in a minor face-off near Yangtse in Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh last week and it was resolved in a few hours as per established protocols between the two countries, according to Indian defence sources.

"Face-offs occur due to differing areas of perception due to the demarcated boundary and as both sides undertake patrolling activities up to their line of perception. The face-off that occurred last week lasted for a few hours and was resolved by local commanders," a defence source said.

"However, there has been no damage to defences," two sources stated.

The Army has so far not responded to questions on the incident.

Defence sources said that whenever patrols of both sides physically meet,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## KURIGRAM BORDER BSF enters Bangladesh, chasing smugglers

UNB, Kurigram

A Bangladeshi family suffered harassment at the hands of Indian border guards who entered their frontier home while chasing drug smugglers, border officials said yesterday.

The incident occurred on Thursday night at the Phulbari border of Uttar Kuthi Chandrakhana in Kurigram Sadar.

Local villager Rafiqul Islam said BSF members forcibly entered the house

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A view of a construction site located in the capital's Kaptan Bazar. As seen in the photo, virtually all of the area dug up for construction has become waterlogged following recent rainfall. Clean standing water such as this is a breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes, carriers of the dengue virus. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 9**

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
4:45	12:45	4:15	5:53	7:30	
JAMAT	5:20	1:15	4:30	5:56	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

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