

CHAOS IN BEIRUT
Gunfire kills six, wounds 30 at rally against port blast judge
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'Understanding where new pathogens come from is essential for preventing future virus outbreaks.'
WHO CHIEF TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS



'Rohingya repatriation is very important. Japan will continue to raise this issue with Myanmar.'
JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH ITO NAOKI



'The situation in Afghanistan is not easy. Militants from Iraq, Syria with experience in military operations are actively being drawn there.'
RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN

Culprits to be hunted down

PM says a day after Cumilla violence, vows stern action against those who vandalised temples



Hasina urged the Hindu community people not to consider themselves as minority and perform their religious rituals with the same rights enjoyed by followers of other religions.

UNB, Bss, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said those behind the Cumilla incident will be hunted down to hand out appropriate punishments to them to stop the recurrence of such communal acts. "A thorough investigation is underway. We are getting huge information. We will definitely trace those who carry out such incidents and we will do so," she said yesterday referring to Wednesday's Cumilla incident.

The PM made the remarks while exchanging greetings with Hindu devotees at the Dhakeshwari National Temple virtually from the Gono Bhaban on the occasion of Durga Puja. Hasina said necessary action will surely be taken against the culprits, no matter what religion they belong to. "They must be found out. We did so in the past and will do it in future as well. They must face appropriate punishments. We want such punishments so that none dare

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Devotees light candles during Maha Nabami puja at Dhakeshwari Mandir in the capital yesterday amid calls for religious harmony in the country. Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindus, ends today with the immersion of the idols of Goddess Durga and her children in water bodies.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

UNREST AFTER CUMILLA INCIDENT

Security beefed up, 100 held

BGB deployed in 22 districts

STAR REPORT

Almost 100 individuals were arrested in different districts in connection with the violence at several places following reports that "the Holy Quran was demeaned" in Cumilla. Teams of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) have been deployed in Cumilla, Narsingdi, Munshiganj and 19 other districts to ensure security during the Durga Puja celebrations, said a press release issued by the BGB. Meanwhile, another man named Shamim, 19, died yesterday of injuries he received during clashes between police and a mob in Hajiganj, Chandpur, raising the death toll from the clash to four. Shamim was a resident of Randhunimura area of Hajiganj, said Harunur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Hajiganj Police Station. The OC added that seven people were arrested in connection with the clash that left at least 23 policemen injured. The authorities imposed Section 144 in Hajiganj following the violence and deployed two platoons of the BGB to restore law and order. Administration officials in Chandpur and Cumilla formed separate committees to investigate the violence

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ROOPPUR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

On course to firing ahead of schedule

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and DWAIPAYAN BARUA

The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant is expected to become operational from 2023, months ahead of the scheduled 2024 timeframe, said Shaukat Akbar, its project director. Originally, the first unit of the nuclear power plant was scheduled to open by 2024 and the second unit by 2025. Now, the first unit will be running in 2023, and accordingly, power would be supplied to the national grid, Akbar told a group of journalists yesterday at the Atomic Energy Commission. The second unit would be made operational six to eight months after the opening of the first unit. By December, 50 percent of the works of the power plant would be complete, he said, adding that the first of the five missions from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect whether all works are being done as per guidelines will arrive next month. The missions will inspect the readiness of around 19 infrastructures of the plant,



which includes the issues of safety, security and safeguards and the institutional and impersonal skills of the operating staff. If the five missions are satisfied, it will give the green light to bring in nuclear fuel. Bringing the fuel will be the biggest work after the installation of the reactor pressure vessel, the work for which was flagged off by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 10, Akbar said. The Russian contractor will maintain all the security measures, according to the guidelines of the International Atomic

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AL tickets of Nasirnagar accused cancelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

In face of criticisms, the Awami League has cancelled nomination of two Brahmanbaria leaders -- charged by police with vandalising and attacking Hindu houses and temples in Nasirnagar five years ago -- for chairman posts in union parishad polls to be held on November 11. The nominations were announced on Tuesday. The two are Dewan Atikur Rahman and Abul Hashem. Dewan is the incumbent chairman of Haripur union while Hashem holds the post in Nasirnagar sadar union. Dewan was named in the case's chargesheet as the mastermind of the attacks. Hashem was also named in the chargesheet along with 226 others.

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Job campaign goes to brave little ones



As part of a pilot programme, a schoolchild being jabbed with Pfizer vaccine in Manikganj yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

STAR REPORT

The health directorate inoculated 120 schoolchildren, aged 12-17, with Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine yesterday as part of the trial run prior to largescale campaign. With this, Bangladesh entered the small list of countries that started Covid-19 vaccination for children. Health Minister Zahid Maleque inaugurated the rollout as the chief guest in Manikganj's Colonel Malek Medical

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GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY

Hand hygiene for all a far-off goal

NILIMA JAHAN

Mohammad Harun, a sales executive at a ceramic store, was pleasantly surprised to see a handwashing station at the entrance to his office this July.

Like many others, he welcomed the initiative and started regularly washing his hands before entering office. "However, after around 15 days, I noticed there was no running water in the tanks, and then the soaps disappeared. A few days after that, the basins were broken down. There is no trace of a handwashing station there anymore." Not only the public handwashing stations, but even most hospitals, especially the public ones, from where infections have the highest chances of spreading, do not have proper handwashing facilities. As the coronavirus infection rate decreased, people's personal hygiene practices have also changed, while they have almost complete disappeared in rural areas due to lack of encouragement from society. Against this backdrop, like many other



countries in the world, Bangladesh is celebrating Global Handwashing Day 2021 today. This year's theme is "Our Future is at Hand - Let's Move Forward Together". The theme calls on all of society to work together as they scale up hand hygiene and reminds people that working together is necessary for universal access and practice of hand hygiene. Since 2008, October 15 has been celebrated as the global handwashing day in order to educate people about benefits of properly washing their hands with soap and encourage them to do it properly. According to water, sanitation and hygiene experts, the country has somehow failed to sustain the spirit of handwashing, even though it was practiced as the simplest and the most cost-effective solution to curb the spread of the coronavirus. If the practice could be continued, not only Covid-19 but an overwhelming majority of waterborne diseases caused by different viruses and bacteria could be prevented, they added.

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সুস্বাদু পানওয়ার আপনার হাতে

ভরসা রাখুন স্বাস্থ্যের মেপনিল ফুটি

স্যানিটাইজিং হ্যান্ড ওয়াশ-এ

জীবাত্ম ধ্বংসের সাথে হাতের ময়েকার ঠিক রাখে। পাওয়া যাচ্ছে আপেল ও অরেঞ্জ ভ্যারিয়েন্টে।