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## SAUDI COALITION RAIDS IN YEMEN

# More than 150 rebels killed

AFP, Riyadh

The Saudi-led coalition supporting Yemen's government said more than 150 Huthi rebels were killed yesterday in air strikes south of Marib city, where the insurgents are pushing on the government's last northern stronghold.

The latest air strikes against the Iran-backed rebels take the number of them killed in oil-rich Marib province's Abdiya district to more than 500 in just the past four days, according to a toll compiled by the coalition.

The rebels rarely comment on losses and the toll could not be independently verified by AFP.

Destruction caused by Thursday's air strikes "included 11 military vehicles, and killed more than 150 terrorist elements," the coalition said in a statement carried by official Saudi media.

The latest coalition onslaught involved 36 strikes over the past 24 hours, it added.

The Huthi rebels renewed their campaign to seize Marib, a strategically vital city that would complete their takeover of the north and its oil reserves, last month.

The Huthis said they were "on the edges of the city" in a video statement Tuesday.

The rebels have since had to retreat from some of their positions, multiple government military officials in Marib told AFP Thursday.

Despite the losses, Huthis are "pushing new reinforcements... and sending thousands to their deaths," according to one of the officials.

The pro-government military sources said 23 of their own fighters were killed and dozens were wounded during

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A common greenshank flying from a char of the Teesta river in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila. This migratory shorebird, which has greenish legs and a long bill, comes from Europe just before the winter season begins. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SHABBOSACHI DAS

## Third phase UP elections on Nov 28

Voting in 10 municipalities same day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The third phase of the union parishad elections will be held on November 28, Election Commission announced yesterday.

A total of 1,007 UPs across the country will go to polls in the third phase. Besides, voting will be held in 10 municipalities on the same day.

Election Commission Secretary Humayun Kabir Khandaker declared the polls schedule after an EC meeting at its office in the capital.

According to the schedule, candidates for the posts of chairman, member and reserved seats for women will be able to submit their nominations to returning officers till November 2.

The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held on November 4 and

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## 'DISTURBING' REPORTS

# India praises prompt action by BD govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday noted "some disturbing" reports about "attacks on religious gatherings" in Bangladesh but appreciated the "prompt" reaction of the government of the country to control the situation.

Asked about several attacks on Durga Puja mandaps, Spokesperson for India's External Affairs Ministry Arindam Bagchi told the weekly media briefing in New Delhi that "we have also seen some disturbing reports of untoward incidents involving attacks on religious gatherings in Bangladesh."

"We note that the government of Bangladesh has reacted promptly to ensure control of the situation with the deployment of law enforcement machinery."

Bagchi said, "We also understand that the ongoing festive celebrations of Durga Puja, which you alluded to, continue

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ROAD TO FREEDOM  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Bangladesh requests India for recognition

OCTOBER 15, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### BANGLADESH GOVT'S LETTER TO INDIRA REQUESTING RECOGNITION

The Bangladesh government-in-exile today sent a letter to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi requesting recognition to the "free and duly constituted Government of Bangladesh".

"Such a response on your part would give a tremendous impetus to the struggle being waged by the people and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for their liberation. It would also generate an international response which would promote the cause of freedom, peace, and stability in this part of the world," stated the letter.

The letter was jointly signed by acting president Syed Nazrul Islam and Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad.

The letter informed the Indian prime minister about the current status of the liberation struggle and said, "The liberation army of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Mukti Bahini, are in

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## 183 more hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 183 patients were hospitalised with dengue in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday, of which 162 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, a total of 2,715 patients were diagnosed during the current month out of a total 20,912 infected. Of the total infected, 2,864 are from outside Dhaka.

At least 82 people have

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## Finnish scientists produce coffee in laboratory



REUTERS, Helsinki

With climate change threatening traditional coffee farming, Finnish scientists say they have produced coffee from cell cultures with an aroma and taste resembling the real thing.

The VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland may have come up with a more sustainable alternative to growing coffee beans by floating cell cultures in bio-reactors filled with a nutrient medium used to make various animal- and plant-based products.

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## Covid-linked deaths fall to seven

466 more test positive

UNB, Dhaka

Seven people died with coronavirus and 466 got infected in 24 hours till yesterday morning, read a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the fresh numbers, the Covid-19 fatalities reached 27,737 in the country while the caseload rose to 1,564,485, according to the DGHS.

Of the latest deceased, three were men and four women.

Three of them died in Dhaka division, two in Chattogram and one each in Khulna and Barishal divisions.

Bangladesh last logged seven Covid-19 deaths on October 8, the lowest since March 17 this year when the country recorded 11 such deaths.

The fresh cases were detected after testing 21,568 samples.

With this, the daily-case positivity rate declined to

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Stones being extracted illegally ravaging Shah Arefin Tila, a hillock in Sylhet's Companiganj, causing massive environmental damage. The Anti-Corruption Commission on Wednesday sued a man for this.

FILE PHOTO

# Eating up a Sylhet hillock

ACC sues man for earning Tk 252cr by extracting stones

OUR CORRESPONDENT, SYLHET

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed a case against the owner of a company for illegally extracting stones worth Tk 252.75 crore from the Shah Arefin Tila in Sylhet's Companiganj upazila.

The accused, Mohammad Ali, 40,

of the upazila's Kathalbari area, is the owner of MS Bashir Company and was originally the lessee of a declared stone quarry in the hilly area in the mid 2000s.

Md Ismail Hossain, assistant director of ACC's Sylhet district coordination office, filed the case on Wednesday.

In the case statement, the ACC official stated the Shah Arefin Tila (hillock) lies on 137.5 acres of khas land (government-owned fallow land).

In April 2004, the Bureau of Mineral Development (BMD) leased 61 acres of the hillock to Bashir

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## BSF JURISDICTION

# Now extended further inside int'l border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Indian Border Security Force's jurisdiction of operation has been extended from 15km to 50km inside the international border and its officers have been given the power to arrest and seize in the three border states of West Bengal, Assam and Punjab in a bid to crack down on smuggling including that of narcotics.

The move by the Indian home ministry,

which controls the BSF, has sparked a sharp response from Trinamool Congress-ruled West Bengal and Congress-governed Punjab which described it as a "direct attack on federalism" and an attempt to "interfere through Central agencies".

In a gazette notification issued on Monday, the home ministry said it was amending an earlier notification of 2014 on jurisdiction of the BSF to exercise its

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## PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 15

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-45 12-30 4-15 5-45 7-15  
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The Daily Star

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