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## Let girls return to school

*Malala, Afghan women's rights activists urge Taliban*

AFP, Kabul

Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Pakistani Taliban as a schoolgirl, has urged Afghanistan's new rulers to let girls return to school.

It has been one month since the hardline Islamist Taliban, which seized power in August, excluded girls from returning to secondary school while ordering boys back to class.

The Taliban have claimed they will allow girls to return once they have ensured security and stricter segregation under their interpretation of Islamic law -- but many are sceptical.

"To the Taliban authorities...reverse the de facto ban on girls' education and re-open girls' secondary schools immediately," Yousafzai and a number of Afghan women's rights activists said in an open letter published on Sunday.

Yousafzai called on the leaders of Muslim nations to make it clear to the Taliban that "religion does not justify preventing girls from going to school".

"Afghanistan is now the only country in the world that forbids girls' education," said the writers, who included the head of the Afghan human rights commission under the last US-backed government Shaharazad Akbar.

The authors called on G20 world leaders to provide



A wheelchair cricketer plays an attacking stroke during a match at the Niaz Mohammad Stadium in Brahmanbaria yesterday. To mark the birthday of Sheikh Russel, the youngest child of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, local organisation "Dream for Disability Foundation" organised the match between differently abled cricketers.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDYO

### BUSINESS

## Govt goes slow on \$3b IMF loan offer

In a rare move, the government is not rushing into a \$3-billion loan offer from the International Monetary Fund as Bangladesh has received a huge amount of budget support from multilateral lenders to fight the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

Last month, the IMF informed the country that it could avail of the new credit on the condition of implementing 33 reform programmes.

STORY ON B1



### PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 19

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:50 12:45 4:00 5:38 7:15  
JAMAAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:41 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## FR TOWER DESIGN FORGERY Ex-Rajuk chair, three others indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against former Rajuk chairman Humayun Khadem and three others in a case filed over forgery in the design of FR Tower in Dhaka.

The three others are: former Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha chief engineer Saidur Rahman, FR Tower leaseholder Syed Md Hossain Imam Faruque alias SMHI Faruque and Rupayan Housing Estate Ltd Chairman Liaquat Ali Khan Mukul.

The four accused, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Syed Kamal Hossain of Dhaka Divisional Special Judge's Court read out the charges to them, Wasim Kumar Roy, bench assistant of the court, told The Daily Star.

Earlier in the day, the judge rejected four separate petitions seeking their discharge from the case.

The court also set November 15 for starting the trial.

On March 28, 2019, a massive fire broke out in the FR Tower in the capital's Banani, leaving 25 people dead and 73 injured.

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### ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Indira rules out talks with Yahya

OCTOBER 19, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

### INTERVIEW WITH INDIRA GANDHI

In an interview published today in The New York Times, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared that the military situation on the borders between India and Pakistan was "quite grave".

In an hour-long interview, the prime minister added, "We certainly will do nothing to provoke an attack or to start any hostilities, but we have to be alive to our interests and safeguard our security."

"Unfortunately, Pakistan's record has been one of hatred and desperation. The military regime has let loose a war on its own people, and there is no knowing what it will do next".

As to India's military assistance to Bangladeshi freedom fighters, Indira Gandhi did not categorically deny. She said, "Perhaps you know, they have many helpers, mostly their own people, all over the world. Also, many avenues are open to them".

The Indian prime minister firmly ruled out any peace talk at that time between India and Pakistan, contending that Pakistan would first have to resolve the Bangladesh crisis by negotiating a settlement with the elected representatives.

### REPLY TO YAHYA'S STATEMENT

Hossain Ali, head of the Bangladesh mission in India, commenting on Pakistan President Yahya Khan's statement, said today that it was ridiculous to say that Yahya would grant clemency to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, if people wanted it.

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## 2 housewives raped in Patuakhali

One suspect arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A man was sent to jail in a rape case in Patuakhali's Rangabali yesterday, while the accused in another rape case in the district's Baufal is absconding.

Rangabali police arrested Hasan Mridha, 42, in the morning on charges of raping a housewife.

The victim's mother filed a rape case against two people, including Hasan, with Rangabali Police Station on Sunday night.

Quoting the case statement, Dewan Jaglul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Rangabali Police Station, said Hasan and his accomplice entered the victim's house and raped her when she was alone at her village home on Saturday afternoon.

They fled when neighbours went to the spot after hearing her screams, the OC added.

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## The British Museum to display 'oldest map of stars'

EVENING STANDARD ONLINE

The British Museum is to display what it says is the world's oldest surviving map of the stars.

The Nebrax Sky Disc is 3,600 years old and will go on show at the London museum next year.

The 30cm bronze disc with a blue-green patina is decorated with inlaid gold symbols thought to represent the sun, moon, stars, the solstices and the

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## 26<sup>th</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

### LATE AL-HAJJ JAHURUL ISLAM



The 26<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of the founder Chairman of Islam Group Al-Hajj Jahurul Islam is being observed today.

A Doa mahfil will be held at his birth place Bhagalpur, at 11 a.m. October 19, 2021 in the mosque of Jahurul Islam Medical College & Hospital. All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for his eternal peace.

On behalf of Islam Group  
**Begum Suriya Islam**  
**Manzurul Islam**  
**Syeda Islam, Mafida Islam**  
**Naima Islam, Kaneta Islam**  
and Members of the Family

**শ্রদ্ধাজলি**

আজ ১৯শে অক্টোবর ২০২১ ইং, (মঙ্গলবার) দেশের অন্যতম উদ্যোক্তা ও বিশিষ্ট ব্যবসায়ী এবং নাভানা লিমিটেড ও আফতাব অটোমোবাইলস্ লিমিটেড এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা, আমাদের পরম শ্রদ্ধেয় মরহুম আলহাজ্ব জহুরুল ইসলাম সাহেবের ২৬তম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী।

তিনি ছিলেন আমাদের আদর্শ, পথ প্রদর্শক এবং সকল কর্ম প্রেরণার উৎস। আজকের এই দিনে আমরা তাঁকে শ্রদ্ধাচিহ্নে স্মরণ করছি এবং তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।

সফিউল ইসলাম (কামাল)  
চেয়ারম্যান  
নাভানা লিমিটেড  
eTeB আফতাব অটোমোবাইলস্ লিমিটেড

## COVID VACCINATION School kids outside capital asked to give information

Bss, Dhaka

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education has asked school students outside the capital to send their information to the upazila and thana secondary education officers by email so that the students can be inoculated against Covid-19.

The move was taken as the government has decided to jab students aged between 12 and 17 across the country.

The DSHE instructed the students, aged 12-17, to provide the information to the education officers by October 23.

"The students of the schools will have to email their information to the upazila or thana education officers concerned after filling out an excel sheet," said an official release, signed by DSHE's Director General Prof Syed M Golam Faruque, on Sunday.

The upazila or thana

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**Star HEALTHLINE**

Hiccups are harmless,  
**BUT WHEN SHOULD YOU SEE A DOCTOR?**

**Hyginex**  
Instant hand sanitizer

**BEACON**  
Pharmaceuticals Limited

STAR HEALTH DESK

We are all familiar with hiccups. It's a fairly common phenomenon that comes and goes, but sometimes it stays and we don't know what to do.

Before delving into solutions, let's briefly understand what hiccups are. Scientifically, a hiccup is when our diaphragm muscles contract. The muscle is situated right above our abdomen, separating it from our chest. So, if we consume food too quickly, or gulp down fizzy beverages faster

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