

## Shariatpur

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The UNO also said that he was not afraid of the threats and hoped that police would identify the miscreants soon.

SM Atik Ullah, inspector (operation) of Palang Model Police Station, said the UNO received threats as he conducted mobile courts and drives against illegal dredgers in different areas.

"We are investigating the matter and will find out the miscreants soon," he added.

## Indira on mission

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area of Rangpur district, killing nine and injuring eight enemy soldiers. On the same day they encountered a Pakistani patrol near Tenguria of Dinajpur district, killing six irregulars and injuring four. Another group of Mukti Bahini today engaged a Pakistani patrol in Baidyanathpur. The occupation troops suffered three casualties in the operation. Mukti Bahini ambushed the Pakistani patrol in Bhaldao and killed one soldier. The same day, the freedom fighters captured 13 razakars along with 12 rifles at Palankhali near Bajumara.

In another incident, three enemy soldiers were killed in Daudkandi Police Station area due to mine explosion.

## BHUTTO DECIDES NOT TO BOYCOTT POLLS

The Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who had earlier threatened to boycott the December by-elections in East Pakistan, told journalists after talks with Pakistan President Yahya Khan that his party would put up 20 to 30 candidates. He denied having negotiations with any political party in East Pakistan to form an electoral alliance.

**PUNJABI MILITIA MOBILISED**  
The Indian government mobilised the militia in the northwestern border state of Punjab. A spokesman said the action was intended to prepare the state for any developments arising from reports that Pakistan had moved large contingents of troops into the area. *Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com*

## 'Very worried'

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responsibility," he told an online press conference with members of the Covering Climate Now international project.

"I hope we are still on time to avoid a failure in Glasgow, but time is running short, and things are getting more difficult and that is why I'm very very worried. I'm afraid things might get wrong," he said.

"The G20 leaders will meet in Rome and they know their economies are responsible for four-fifth of planet carbon pollution," Guterres said.

"If they do not stand up ... we are headed for terrible human sufferings," he added.

He said: "China and the United States must do more than what they have announced so far."

Held between October 31 and November 12, the Glasgow gathering is seen as a crucial step in setting worldwide emission targets to slow global warming.

## Tougher test

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after winning their opening match against Bangladesh, find themselves in Group 2 alongside India, Pakistan, New Zealand Afghanistan and Namibia.

The T20 World Cup has had a lot of twists and turns since hosts India were forced to shift the event to the middle-east due to an upsurge in the number of Covid-19 cases in the country last year, but the limelight now squarely moves to the Super 12 stage, to be played in the UAE.

Australia and South Africa will lock horns in the opening game of the Super 12 stage in Abu Dhabi in the morning before England take on defending champions West Indies under floodlights in Dubai.

Bangladesh's Super 12 mission will begin on October 24 in Sharjah and their opponents are all but confirmed to be Sri Lanka, who look likeliest to finish as champions of Group A in the first round.

Group 2 will bear witness to a cracker of a game to begin proceedings, with favorites India taking on the arch-rivals Pakistan in Dubai in the second game on Sunday.

An eventful campaign for Bangladesh started with a shock six-run defeat to Scotland in the first-round opener. However, the Tigers bounced back to register wins against Oman and Papua New Guinea to finish with four points from three games and secure a runners-up spot.

Mahmudullah's team received heavy criticism after the defeat to Scotland, including from Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan. Fans and media also did not hold back in their criticism.

After that defeat, BCB higher-ups held a virtual meeting with members of the Bangladesh team, including coach Russell Domingo, T20I captain Mahmudullah and star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan.

There were drastic changes to the batting order against Oman for the very next game and questions were raised about the influence that the BCB premier had even in the middle of a big event.

However, the players overcame that pressure and are all set to begin a new journey against bigger opponents.



Activists march and hold cardboard reading "Save our blue planets" (bottom) and "Not one degree further" (top) during a climate strike demonstration of Fridays for Future at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Pfizer jab shows 90.7pc

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antibodies induced by the vaccine in the children to the response of older recipients in their adult trial.

Based on those results, Pfizer and BioNTech said last month that their Covid-19 vaccine induced a robust immune response in the children.

The 5 to 11 year olds were given two shots of a 10-microgram dose of the vaccine, a third of the dose size given to people 12 and older.

Outside advisors to the FDA are scheduled to meet on Tuesday to vote on whether to recommend that the agency authorise the vaccine for that age group. The FDA's staff was expected to publish their review of the evidence submitted by Pfizer later yesterday.

Pfizer also said yesterday that it had expanded its clinical trial to improve its safety data, more than doubling the number of children enrolled.

According to the briefing documents, the adverse event profile in the expanded group of kids did not suggest any new safety concerns from the vaccine. The company had said previously that the safety profile in the age group was generally comparable to 16 to 25 year olds.

The second cohort of children have been observed for a shorter time. All of them had received their second

dose and more than 70% were more than two weeks post dose two.

Both the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna Inc vaccines have been linked to rare cases of heart inflammation called myocarditis, especially in young men.

Pfizer suggested that the rate of myocarditis in the age group was likely to be lower than observed in vaccinated 12 to 15 year olds. It also estimated that the number of Covid-related hospitalisations prevented by vaccination was many times the number of potential cases of myocarditis.

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine already has US regulatory authorisation for people who are at least 12 years old, including full FDA approval in August for those 16 and up.

Around 190 million people in the United States are fully vaccinated, including more than 11 million who are 12 to 17 years old that have received the Pfizer vaccine.

If the FDA authorises the vaccine for children 5 to 11 years old, a group of advisors to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will meet on November 2 and 3 to make recommendations to the agency on how the shots should be administered.

Most states wait for the CDC to sign off on recommendations for vaccines before they begin administering shots.

## Ten FARC dissidents killed in shootout with Colombian army

AFP, Bogota

At least 10 dissidents from the former FARC guerrilla group were killed in clashes with the army in southwest Colombia, a military source said on Thursday.

Soldiers engaged in "intense fighting" with the rebels in Micay Canyon in the Cauca Department, General Jonh Jairo Rojas said.

"We are talking about more than 10 dead" among the dissident fighters from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, the leftist guerrilla organization that signed a peace treaty with the government in 2016.

In a video shared with the media, the general said that members of the smaller National Liberation Army (ELN), which did not sign the peace treaty, had also participated in the fighting, although he did not report any victims from that group.

Guerrillas from both groups in the area compete for income from drug trafficking because of its proximity to the Pacific coast.

## Jurassic dinosaur had herd

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about 80 juveniles and adults of a Jurassic Period plant-eating species called *Mussaurus patagonicus*, including 20 remarkably complete skeletons.

The animals experienced a mass-death event, probably caused by a drought, and their bodies were subsequently buried by wind-blown dust, the researchers said.

"It is a pretty dramatic scene from 193 million years ago that was frozen in time," said paleontologist Diego Pol of the Egidio Feruglio Paleontological Museum in Trelew, Argentina, who led the research published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

*Mussaurus*, which grew to about 20 feet (6 meters) long and about 1.5 tonnes, possessed a long neck and tail, with a small head. It was bipedal as an adult but newborns were quadrupedal.

*Mussaurus* lived early in the Jurassic, the second of three periods comprising the age of dinosaurs. It was a relatively large beast for its time - much bigger than contemporaneous meat-eating dinosaurs. Dinosaurs became true giants later in the Jurassic.

"The site is one of a kind," Pol said. "It preserves a dinosaur nesting ground including delicate and tiny

dinosaur skeletons as well as eggs with embryos inside. The specimens we have found showed that herd behavior was present in long-necked dinosaurs since their early history. These were social animals, and we think this may be an important factor to explain their success."

The animals were found to have been grouped by age at the time of their deaths, with hatchlings and eggs in one area while skeletons of juveniles were clustered nearby. The eggs were arranged in layers within trenches. Adults were found alone or in pairs.

This phenomenon, called "age segregation," signals a complex social structure, the researchers said, including adults that foraged for meals and cared for the young. The researchers suspect that members of the herd returned to the same spot during successive seasons to form breeding colonies.

"The young were staying with the adults at least until they reached adulthood. It could be that they stayed in the same herd after reaching adulthood, but we don't have information to corroborate that hypothesis," said paleontologist and study co-author Vincent Fernandez of the Natural History Museum in London.

## Don't let Taliban in

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they said that they will give permission to women to resume their jobs, to go back to the school, but they didn't keep that promise," said Fareed.

Since seizing power in mid-August, Taliban leaders have vowed to respect women's rights in accordance with sharia, or Islamic law. But under Taliban rule from 1996 to 2001, women could not work and girls were banned from school. Women had to cover their faces and be accompanied by a male relative when they left home.

The United Nations is considering rival claims on who should represent Afghanistan. The Taliban nominated their Doha-based spokesman Suhail Shaheen as UN ambassador, while Ghulam Isaccai - the UN envoy representing the government ousted by the Taliban - is seeking to remain in the country's seat.

UN member states are expected to make a decision by the end of the year.

Wardak urged countries to pressure the Taliban "to put their words in action" when it comes to women's rights, adding: "If you're going to give them a seat, there should be conditions."

The women spoke to reporters before addressing a UN event on support for Afghan women and girls, organized by Britain, Qatar, Canada,

UN Women and the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, reports Reuters.

"Women and girls in Afghanistan are pinning their hopes and dreams on this very council and world body to help them recover their rights to work, travel and go to school," Isaccai told the 15-member council. "It would be morally reprehensible if we do nothing and let them down."

The UN Security Council also met separately on Thursday to discuss women, peace and security.

"WE NEED TO FIGHT BACK" UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres made an appeal for reversing a decline in women's rights in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world.

"We need to fight back -- and turn the clock forward -- for every woman and girl," Guterres told the Security Council on Thursday.

"Women will no longer accept reversals of their rights. They shouldn't have to -- in countries in conflict, or anywhere else," he added.

In Myanmar, Ethiopia, Yemen and other parts of the world the rights of women are being violated or eliminated altogether, Guterres said.

"In Mali, after two coups in nine months, the space for women's rights is not just shrinking, but closing," he said.

## War crimes trials at a standstill

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Shahriar said the collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces have been tried and punished, but the government is not showing interest in trying their high command and "war criminal organisations", particularly the Jamaat-e-Islami.

He suggested reviving both the ICTs to speed up the trial proceedings of war crimes related cases.

The government also can appoint some judges to the Appellate Division for quick hearing and disposal of the appeals in connection with these cases as ICT is overburdened with cases, he added.

ICT prosecutor Tapas Kanti Paul said the functions of the tribunal slowed after its sitting judge, Justice Amir Hossain, fell ill last year. He died on August 24 this year.

On the other hand, Abdul Hannan Khan, chief investigator of ICT, died of Covid-19 on November 29 last year and senior prosecutor Zead Al Malum passed away on June 27 this year.

"The pandemic situation has improved now and we are hopeful that we will move war crimes related cases before the ICT within a short time," Tapas said.

He said the arrested war crimes accused could not be brought to the ICT from the prisons due to the pandemic.

Appearance of any war crimes accused before the ICT is mandatory during depositions and cross-examinations of witnesses, he said.

Meanwhile, the government on October 14 appointed Justice KM Hafizul Alam, a High Court judge, as a member of the ICT to fill up the post which fell vacant after the death of Justice Amir.

Investigation agency coordinator Sanaul Huq told this correspondent that although the agency was working on a limited scale since the death of Justice Amir, they would ramp up its operations after the resumption of the ICT.

So far, 100 people have been tried by two special tribunals over

committing crimes against humanity. Six of them have been executed in the last 11 years.

Besides, hearings in appeals in 22 war crimes related cases have been pending with the Appellate Division for about 20 months.

The Awami League-led government formed the first International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-1) on March 25, 2010 in line with the party's electoral pledge to try people who committed crimes against humanity and war crimes in 1971.

The second tribunal (ICT-2) was formed on March 22, 2012 to expedite the trials. But the government kept one of the tribunals almost dormant since September 15, 2015 following the drop in the number of cases.

The ICT-1 has delivered 31 judgments in war crimes related cases from February 28, 2013 to February 11 this year, while the ICT-2 has delivered 11 verdicts in such cases from January 21, 2013 to July 16, 2015, according to the information available on their websites.

A study by Law Lab, a law chamber that conducts research on different legal issues, found that a total of 100 people, including 52 absconding convicts, have been tried so far by the two tribunals.

Of them, 67 were sentenced to death, 26 to life imprisonment, five got 20 years in jail, one (Ghulam Azam) was sentenced to 90 years' imprisonment, and one was acquitted.

A total of 34 appeals have been filed with the apex court challenging the war crimes tribunals' verdicts. Nine appeals were disposed of and three others filed by accused Ghulam Azam, Mawlana Abdus Sobhan, and Abdul Alim were declaredabatedfollowing their deaths, Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir, head of the Law Lab, told The Daily Star.

The Appellate Division heard the last war crimes related appeal on December 3, 2019. Convicted war criminal Syed Mohammad Qaisar filed it, challenging the death penalty handed to him by an ICT in 2014.

## Irritated

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factors that appear to play a role. Lack of properly coordinated signals between the brain and the intestines can cause reaction -- resulting in discomfort, diarrhea or constipation.

IBS can develop after a spell of diarrhea caused by bacteria or a virus. It may also be associated with bacterial overgrowth in the intestines.

Those exposed to stress, especially early on in life, tend to have symptoms of IBS.

Many among those suffering from IBS report that particular foods trigger symptoms, and avoid those foods. Sometimes people with IBS exclude multiple foods from the diet. Why certain foods generate symptoms, however, is unclear.

What you can do to ease symptoms: avoid caffeine (tea, coffee, soft drinks), eat more fiber like fruits, vegetables and whole grains, drink at least three to four glasses of water every day, try to get more exercise and reduce stress in your life, eat smaller meals instead of big meals.

When to talk to your doctor: severe abdominal pain, new symptoms starting around age 50, blood in stool, difficulty focusing or changes in behaviour, migraines and rapid, unexplained weight loss.

## 4 more

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Of the latest deaths, two were men and two women.

The new cases were detected after testing 17,100 samples during the 24 hours.

However, the mortality rate remained static at 1.77 percent compared to the same period.

Besides, the recovery rate rose slightly to 97.67 percent, with 564 more patients getting cured.

## Mali govt denies approving jihadist negotiations

AFP, Bamako

Mali's government has denied that it plans to negotiate with jihadists, walking back an earlier statement from its religion ministry saying that it would do so.

In a statement published on

social media on Thursday night, the government in the Sahel state said that it had learned of plans for jihadist talks "through the press".

"No national or international organisation has been officially mandated to carry out such an activity," the statement said.

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GD-1896