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# War crimes trials at a standstill

36 cases undisposed; probe against 2,744 suspects, 20 appeals pending

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The backlog of war crimes cases and related appeals at the International Crimes Tribunal and the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court is growing as their proceedings remain halted for about 20 months due to the pandemic and other reasons.

No progress has been made in the investigations into war crimes allegations during this period either. This has caused frustration among the justice seekers, including the families of the victims and Liberation War martyrs.

A total of 36 cases are now pending trial at the ICT. Investigations into 459 allegations against 2,744 war crimes suspects and 20 appeals filed with the Appellate Division against the ICT verdicts are pending, ICT prosecution and investigation agency sources said.

The deaths of a sitting judge of the ICT, its chief investigator and a senior prosecutor during the pandemic aggravated the situation.

Although the High Court and lower courts are holding trials of other cases virtually using information technology, uncertainty still looms large over the resumption of trial proceedings in the cases of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

Expressing disappointment at the slow pace of trials, eminent war crimes researcher Shahrar Kabir said it is unfortunate that trials of war crimes remain halted for a long period though the courts for other cases are running smoothly using the information technology.

"We have noticed that the government's interest in holding trials of war crimes cases has slackened in the last few years," he told The Daily Star recently.

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A man climbs over the connector between two bogies of a stalled train near the capital's Moghbazar level crossing yesterday. One of the bogies of the train coming from Chattogram and bound for Kamalapur Railway Station derailed near the level crossing, causing the train to be stuck there from around 11:45am to 2:00pm.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## TRIAL IN CHILDREN Pfizer job shows 90.7pc efficacy

REUTERS, New York

The Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine showed 90.7% efficacy against the coronavirus in a clinical trial of children 5 to 11 years old, the US drugmaker said yesterday.

Sixteen children in the trial who had received a placebo got Covid-19, compared with 3 who were vaccinated, Pfizer said in briefing documents submitted to the US Food and Drug Administration.

Because more than twice as many children in the 2,268-participant trial were given the vaccine than placebo, that equates to better than 90% efficacy.

Pfizer's clinical trial in those 5 to 11 years old was not primarily designed to measure efficacy against the virus. Instead, it compared the amount of neutralising

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## Jurassic dinosaur had herd mentality



REUTERS

A vast trove of fossils unearthed in Argentina's southern Patagonia region is offering the oldest-known evidence that some dinosaurs thrived in a complex and well-organized herd structure, with adults caring for the young and sharing a communal nesting ground.

Scientists said on Thursday the fossils include more than 100 dinosaur eggs and the bones of

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

### Indira on mission in the West

OCTOBER 23, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**INDIA WILL NOT ACT IN ANGER:**  
INDIRA  
Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today began her 20-day

tour of six western countries including the USA and Britain amid intensified military preparation by India and Pakistan in their respective border areas.

Indira Gandhi, in a radio broadcast to the nation on the eve of her departure, said the tour was important at that critical moment to put to world leaders the reality of the situation.

"The very gravity of the situation," Indira said in her four-minute broadcast, "demands that we do not speak or act in anger or in haste. It is a



time for alertness not only of our defence forces but of all our people."

She called upon the Indian people to stand united and alert because "our country is facing danger".

#### ON THE WAR FRONT

Mukti Bahini today launched a surprise mortar attack on a column of Pakistani soldiers while they were moving towards Kakdanga in Satkhira. Four occupation soldiers were killed and five were seriously wounded in the action. In an encounter with the occupation troops in Patkelghata area today freedom fighters killed 15 enemy soldiers.

In another operation, Mukti Bahini ambushed enemy patrol in Jagadlhat

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## Don't let Taliban in Afghan women appeal to UN

AGENCIES

A group of Afghan women urged the United Nations to block the Taliban from gaining a seat at the world body, calling for better representation for their country during a visit to the organisation's New York headquarters on Thursday.

"It's very simple," former Afghan politician and peace negotiator Fawzia Koofi told reporters outside the UN Security Council in New York. "The UN needs to give that seat to somebody who respects

the rights of everyone in Afghanistan."

"We are talked a lot about, but we are not listened to," she said of Afghan women. "Aid, money, recognition - they are all leverage that the world should use for inclusion, for respect to the rights of women, for respect to the rights of everybody."

Koofi was joined by former politician, Naheed Fareed, former diplomat Asila Wardak and journalist Anisa Shaheed.

"When the Taliban took Afghanistan ...

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## Shariatpur UNO files GD after life threats

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The upzila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Shariatpur Sadar filed a general diary as he received multiple life threats from unidentified people.

Complainant Mondip Chorai said the general diary was filed with Palang Model Police Station around 2:00pm on Thursday.

"Some miscreants sent two handwritten letters to my office address threatening me with murder. I informed higher authorities and filed the general diary," he said.

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The house of Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs Minister Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing in Bandarban decked out in decorative lights to celebrate the Mahaa Wagyawai Powe festival. The photo was taken on Thursday night, when hundreds of Buddhists brought out a Rath Yatra in the area.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

## 4 more Covid deaths, 232 new cases recorded

UNB, Dhaka

Covid-19 claimed four more lives and infected another 232 people in Bangladesh in 24 hours till yesterday morning.

The daily-case positivity rate decreased further to 1.36 percent from

Thursday's 1.51 percent.

With the fresh numbers, the Covid fatalities reached 27,805 while the caseload climbed to 1,567,138 in Bangladesh, according to the Directorate General of the Health services (DGHS).

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### PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 23

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-15  
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-39 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Star HEALTHLINE

### IRRITATED BY IBS?



**Hyginex**  
Instant hand sanitizer

STAR HEALTH DESK

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is not all that uncommon -- affecting 10-15 percent of people worldwide. It's characterised as discomfort or pain in the belly and trouble with bowel habits: either diarrhea or constipation.

IBS can be unpredictable and long-term symptoms can cause disruption in personal and professional lives. Exact reason behind IBS is not known. There are, however, some

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## 'Very worried'

UN chief on possible failure at Glasgow COP26

AFP, Paris

UN chief Antonio Guterres said Thursday that the current climate situation was "a one-way ticket for disaster" and stressed the need to "avoid a failure" at the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow.

The 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, struck at the COP21 summit, called for capping global warming at well below 2C above the pre-industrial level, and ideally closer to 1.5C.

But current UN estimates indicate a "catastrophic" warming of 2.7C is on the cards.

Guterres said the present indications "show a pathway of at least 2.7C heating above pre industrial levels, and that's obviously a one way ticket for disaster."

"The carbon pollution of a handful of countries has brought humanity to its knees and they bear the greatest

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অনলাইন ব্যাংকিংসহ আধুনিক ব্যাংক সেবার প্রতিশ্রুতি নিয়ে রাজশাহী জেলায়  
**উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর**  
সাহেব বাজার শাখা  
এবং  
আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, রাজশাহী  
নতুন ঠিকানা বর্তমান অবস্থান হতে স্থানান্তরিত হয়ে নিজস্ব ভবনে  
নতুন অঙ্গিকে ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম শুরু করতে যাচ্ছে  
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