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It's unfortunate tech giants 'not paying tax'

HC says as it blasts the global firms

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has castigated global tech giants, including Google, Facebook and Yahoo, for not paying income tax to the government of Bangladesh.

In the full text of a verdict, the court observed it was crystal clear from relevant documents that those companies are not paying any tax on the revenues they earn through advertisements and domain sales, although they owe the money to the people of Bangladesh. Therefore, the country is losing a large amount in revenue, it said.

"Google, Facebook, YouTube, Yahoo, Amazon and other internet-based companies not paying income tax is unfortunate," the HC bench of Justice Md Ashraf Kamal and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil said in the 145-page full text released yesterday.

On November 8 last year, the HC bench delivered a short verdict on the issue following a writ petition filed by six Supreme Court lawyers, including Mohammad Humayun Kabir Pallab, Mohammad Kauser and Md Sajjadul Islam, in 2018 seeking necessary directives on the authorities concerned to collect revenues from the companies.

In the full text, the HC said the companies must complete their Value Added Tax (VAT) registration with the National Board of Revenue (NBR), which is mandatory under the Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Act, 2012. They are bound to submit income tax returns to the NBR under the Income-Tax Ordinance, 1984.

The court said the tech giants are powerful in terms of their financial strength. "This is the first case over the collection of revenues from Google, Facebook, YouTube, Yahoo, Amazon and other internet-based companies. No case was filed with any court in the world in this regard."

While making the observations, the HC ordered the

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A rescue vessel pulling out vehicles which fell into the Padma river after a ferry tipped over on its side at Paturia terminal in Manikganj on Wednesday morning. Eleven of 18 sunken vehicles, including trucks and covered vans, were salvaged till last evening. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIR ALAM BISWAS

Cooked-up stories spread to embarrass government

Says foreign minister

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said some "enthusiastic" media outlets and individuals were spreading cooked-up stories about deaths and rapes of members of religious minorities.

The move is aimed at embarrassing the Sheikh Hasina-led government, which is committed to maintaining religious harmony, he said.

He claimed that all perpetrators have been arrested and are now in police custody. Besides, the houses that were burned down have been rebuilt and everyone got compensation.

"Six people have died during the recent religious violence," Momen said in a message shared with the media.

Among the deceased, he said, four were Muslims and they were killed by police when they tried to torch the houses of the Hindu community. Two Hindus died -- one was a normal

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Star HEALTHLINE

Vision loss due to **GLAUCOMA CAN'T BE RESTORED**



Hyginex
Instant hand sanitizer

STAR HEALTH DESK

Glaucoma is a condition that damages the eye's optic nerve -- vital for optimal vision -- often due to an abnormally high pressure in the eyes.

It is one of the leading causes of blindness in people aged over 60. It can occur at any age but is more common in adults.

Many forms of glaucoma have no warning signs. The effect is so gradual that one may not notice a change in vision until the condition is at an advanced stage.

As vision loss due

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited

2 killed in Narsingdi pre-poll violence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Two people were killed and over 20 others injured as two groups of villagers clashed over the upcoming Paratali union parishad elections in Narsingdi's Raipura upazila yesterday morning.

Saheb Ali Pathan, additional superintendent (crime and administration) of Narsingdi police, said additional police personnel have been deployed to maintain law and order and prevent further clashes.

The deceased are Sadir Mia, 19, son of Malfat Ali, and Hiran Mia, 35, son of Asad Mia, of Kacharikandi village.

Paratali union parishad member Shah Alam has been embroiled in a feud with rival, known as "Chhoto" Shah Alam, over establishing supremacy in the area, said Azizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Raipura Police Station. The two deceased were

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

US military supplies to Pakistan

OCTOBER 29, 1971 SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

EVERYTHING BUT REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN'S REFUGEE CENTERS

In a report published today, The New York Times stated that Pakistan's 29 reception centres for returning Bangladeshi refugees were clean, stocked with adequate food and medicine and well-staffed but the only thing they lacked was refugees.

"So few refugees are returning to East Pakistan, many observers here believe, that returnees are still far outnumbered by Bengalis fleeing to India even though army units on the border have orders to stop escapes and sometimes shoot them," added the report.

AN EXPLOSIVE ISSUE Harold Saunders and Samuel Hoskinson, of the US national security council, informed US President's Assistant for National Security Affairs Henry Kissinger today that on the eve of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visit to the US, a potentially explosive issue concerning US arms supply to Pakistan had arisen.

They said, "It now turns out that some equipment has been released from Defense stocks since March 25—perhaps as much as \$2 million worth. So while our total figure of \$3.8 million

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Man held under DSA for 'spreading rumour'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A man has been arrested in Khulna in a case filed under the Digital Security Act for spreading rumours on Facebook about the recent Cumilla mayhem at Hindu temples and homes over allegedly demeaning the Holy Quran.

A team of Rab-6 arrested Uttam Majumder, 31, of Ashok Nagar in Bagerhat's Chitalmari, in Khulna city's Labanchara area, according to a press release from the force.

Uttam had been posting various false and provocative statements

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

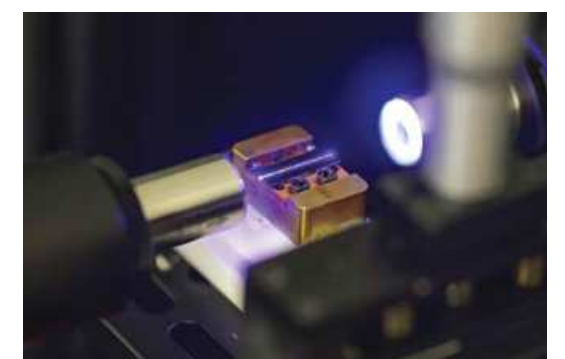


PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 29

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-30 4-00 5-32 7-15
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

China builds fastest programmable quantum computers



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Chinese scientists claim to have built the world's fastest programmable quantum computers, which appear to crack problems that are currently not feasible for "classical" non-quantum computers.

The researchers led by Pan Jianwei from the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC), said one of the quantum computing systems — Zuchongzhi 2.1 — is a million times more powerful than its nearest competitor, Google's Sycamore.

Their programmable superconducting quantum computer, named after a 5th-century mathematician, is 10 million times faster than the world's fastest supercomputer, the scientists said.

Besides, their photonic quantum computer

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



A coppermith barbet sitting on a banyan tree branch with fruits, which are loved by this beautiful bird of this country. The photo was taken at the National Botanical Garden in the capital's Mirpur recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF PUSHPETA PUSHPO

In Loving Memory of Anwarul Islam (1938-2021)



"কে বলে গো সেই প্রভাতে বেই আমি সকল খেলায় করবে খেলা এই আমি" - Rabindranath Tagore

Mr. Anwarul Islam, former Secretary, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, passed away in Dhaka on 20th October night. Mr. Islam, who was 82, died of cardiac arrest at a hospital in Dhaka. He had a distinguished career in the civil service during which he spent a good deal of time in agriculture and textile ministries. He served as Secretary in various ministries including Shipping, Science and Technology and Religious Affairs. Senior positions held by him include Member (Administration), Water Development Board and Director (Finance), Petrobangla. He was Founder-Chairman, Board of Directors, Bakhrabad Gas Systems Ltd. Mr. Islam also served as Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Kuwait. He had assignments at the UN and UNRWA headquarters, and served on the U.N. Board of Auditors. As a member of Rotary Club, he was active in social service.

In personal life, he left behind his wife (Zeenat Islam Sweetie), one son (Mehran), daughter-in-law (Tanweena), one daughter (Mursaleena), three grandchildren (Pareesa, Mahnak, and Ushno), brothers and sisters and numerous well-wishers. As the eldest brother to many in the family, he was a pillar of support.

Mr. Islam will be remembered for his jovial spirit and his towering presence. He enjoyed laughing and making others laugh. He recited Tagore frequently and loved Tagore's music. His writings including op-ed articles and articles on travel, art and food have been published in different newspapers and magazines.

30th October would have been his 83rd birthday. Please keep him in your prayers. May Allah rest his soul in peace and grant him a place in Heaven.