

Indira rejects Thant’s proposal

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was known to reflect rising fears that the humanitarian activities directed by 85 United Nations officials were jeopardized by stepped up military activities, in particular by the Bangladeshi guerrilla forces. One relief ship flying the United Nations flag was blown up in Chittagong harbor and supply trucks had been attacked.
BRITAIN WANTS POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Britain feels that there should be a political settlement of the Bangladesh problem and the responsibility for this laid on Pakistan. Stating that at a news conference in New Delhi today, the British Overseas Development Minister Sir Richard Wood said, “There should be a dialogue between President Yahya Khan and those who

hold power in East Bengal.”
ON THE WAR FRONT
Pakistani troops along with a group of Razakars advanced towards Agrapur area in Rajshahi district. Mukti Bahini made a surprise attack on the enemy killing 10 Pakistani soldiers and a number of Razakars. In this action, one brave freedom fighter was killed and two others sustained minor injuries.
Mukti Bahini ambushed an enemy column today at Bakshiganj in Mymensingh district killing 17 and injuring nine enemy soldiers.
Mukti Bahini raided a mixed column of Pakistani troops and Razakars in Ramtala area in Cumilla-Noakhali sector killing three Pakistani soldiers and five Razakars.
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Monster incarnate

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plan, while four others assisted him, he said, adding that he made the plan to murder his daughter because she said she would tell her mother about him being with another woman.
The other arrestees are Amir’s cousins Rabiul Awal,19, and Rezaul Islam Emon, 22, their friend Sohail Rana, 27, and Laily, 30.
All the accused, including Laily, were present at the crime scene.
After the murder, they carried the body on an auto-rickshaw, put it inside a sack, and hid it in a drum in Rezaul’s cowshed. After two days, they dumped the body under a culvert, Moin said.

The Rab official said they found clues about the murder after the sack with the body was found -- as they found similar sacks at two houses in the locality, including at Rezaul’s.
The five, including the father, locally announced that the child was missing -- pretending to search for her in the locality -- until police found the body nearly a week later.
With other family members, Amir also broke down in tears upon seeing the child’s body, the Rab official said.
To divert law enforcers, he told them that she might have been killed by muggers, saying her jewellery was missing.

Biden, Xi agree to move

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Beijing is expanding its nuclear arsenal more quickly than anticipated.
While the United States and Russia have had a formal strategic stability dialogue since the days of the Cold War, producing several disarmament agreements, that is not the case between Washington and Beijing.
Biden’s predecessor Donald Trump repeatedly asked in vain that China be included in the US-Russian talks.
Biden, who took office in January, appears to be more interested in bilateral talks.
“That is not the same as what we have in the Russian context with the formal strategic stability dialogue that is far more mature, has a much deeper history to it,” Sullivan said.
“There’s less maturity to that in the US-China relationship, but the two leaders did discuss these issues and it is now incumbent on us to think about the most productive way to carry it forward from here.”
‘HARD-WON’ ACHIEVEMENT
US and China have also agreed to ease restrictions on journalist visas shortly after the virtual summit between its two leaders, with Beijing yesterday calling the move a “hard-won” achievement.

Times, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal as tensions soared between the two countries.
But in the wake of the virtual summit between Biden and Xi, officials from both countries said they had agreed to allow new journalist visas to be issued.
A State Department spokesman said Tuesday that discussions in recent months had led to “some initial progress” in “a few areas” of the media environment.
The official said China had “committed to issue visas for a group of US reporters, provided they are eligible under all applicable laws and regulations.”
Beijing also promised to “permit US journalists already in the PRC (People’s Republic of China) to freely depart and return, which they had previously been unable to do,” the US official said.
Chinese state media said both sides had reached an agreement, including to “reciprocally approve” the visas of new journalists.
Both sides agreed to extend the validity of journalist visas to one year, after both countries had largely capped permits to three months.
Asked about the agreement yesterday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters that “this hard-won achievement is in line with the interests of media on both sides, and is worth treasuring.”
He added that Beijing hopes “both sides will put in place the relevant policies and measures as soon as possible.”

Smog worsens in New Delhi

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six of 11 coal-fired power plants surrounding the metropolis in a bid to tackle the filthy air.
The move comes after India led the charge at the weekend to weaken anti-coal pledges at the UN COP26 climate summit, with critics saying it prioritised economic growth over the planet’s future.
The Indian capital of 20 million people has also cancelled school classes and urged people to work from home, while banning non-essential trucks from entering the city an effort to clean the smog.
In an order passed late Tuesday, the city’s Commission for Air Quality Management said all education institutions should remain shut until further notice.
The number of children with respiratory ailments has gone up threefold in the past seven to 10 days, said Arvind Bountra, head of paediatrics at Max Super Speciality Hospital.
“This is directly linked to high levels of pollution that the city of Delhi and NCR are witnessing...” Bountra said, referring to the National Capital Region that includes Delhi’s satellite cities.
“Anti-smog guns” -- which spray mist into the air -- and water sprinklers were ordered to operate at pollution hotspots at least three times a day.
The commission also said that at least half of government workers were being sent home and private firms should follow suit.
The order came days after the Delhi government pushed back against a call by India’s Supreme Court to declare the city’s first “pollution lockdown”, which would restrict the population

to their homes.
‘WE WILL DIE’
In neighbouring Pakistan, the city of Lahore in Punjab province near the border with India was declared the most polluted city in the world yesterday by a Swiss air quality monitor.
Lahore, a city of 11 million, had an air quality ranking of 348 according to Swiss air quality monitor IQAir, well over the hazardous level of 300 set by the WHO.
“Children are experiencing breathing diseases... for God’s sake, find a solution,” labourer Muhammad Saeed told AFP.
In recent years, Lahore residents have built their own purifiers and fled lawsuits against government officials in desperate bids to clean the air.
But authorities have been slow to act, blaming the smog on India or claiming the figures are exaggerated.
Lahore is consistently ranked one of the world’s worst cities for air pollution.
“We are poor people, we can’t even afford a doctor’s charges,” shopkeeper Ikram Ahmed told AFP.
“We can only plead with them to control the pollution. I am not a literate person, but I have read that Lahore has the worst air quality and then comes India’s Delhi. If it continues like this, we will die.”
Labourer Saeed said he had stopped taking his children outside for walks because of the dirty air.
“There are factories and small industries operating here -- either shift them somewhere else, give them compensation or provide them with modern technology, so we can get rid of this smog,” he said.



A man crossing a rusty steel footbridge in the capital’s Haatkholra area. The bridge, riddled with holes, has become a cause for concern for the locals. Many of them do not use the footbridge and instead opt to cross the road, putting themselves in harm’s way. The photo was taken yesterday

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BIWTA making ‘eco park’ filling Turag

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near Sinnirtek landing station. The authorities dumped soil around 50 feet inside the river’s boundary demarcation mark.
The space between the river boundary pillar 3 to 9 in Mirpur’s Borobazar, one of the major business hubs in the capital, has also been selected for constructing an eco-park.
BIWTA has already fenced up the area with tin and different types of construction equipment have already been brought there.
In Diabari, an eco-park would be set up behind a mosque on the riverbank where the Turag has taken a V-shaped bent.
The river has become narrowed at this point due to filling the bank illegally.

In another spot in Palpara-Jahanabad area, the riverbank was filled up illegally up to 100 feet inside the river boundary demarcation pillars.
Environmentalist Nazrul Islam, former professor of the Department of Geography and Environment at Dhaka University, said the decision of constructing structures inside the river boundary demarcation pillar is irrational.
Contacted, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) General Secretary Sharif Jamil termed the initiative “ill-motivated”.
River grabbing has been going on in the name of different development projects.
“It is a mater of regret that a government body that is responsible for protecting rivers, now itself

grabbing riverbanks,” he said.
He also demanded the cancellation of such projects and taking immediate measures to excavate riverbanks.
Paribesh Bachao Andolan Chairman Abu Naser Khan said such initiatives would cause severe environmental degradation in the capital and its surrounding areas.
The Turag is one of the rivers that hold rainwater. If it gets narrowed, it would not be able to hold excessive rainwater. As a result, the river may overflow and cause waterlogging in the capital, he viewed.
A large number of cargo vessels ply through this river channel. If it is narrowed, operations of water transports may face trouble. It may affect trade and business in this area, Khan added.

Science says grannies are good for you

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of 50 grandmothers who were shown pictures of their grandchildren, who were between three and 12 years old.
As a control, they were also shown pictures of an unknown child, an adult parent of the same sex as their grandchild, and an unknown adult.
“They recruited areas of the brain that are involved with emotional empathy, and also areas of the brain that are involved in movement and motor simulation and preparation,” James Rilling, an anthropologist and neuroscientist who led the study told AFP.
“When they’re viewing these pictures of their grandchild, they’re really feeling what the grandchild

is feeling. So when the child is expressing joy, they’re feeling that joy. When the children are expressing distress, they’re feeling that distress.”
The same motor related regions of the brain also light up in the brains of mothers, and are thought to be related to the instinct to pick up a child or approach and interact with them.
By contrast, when the grandmothers viewed images of their adult children, there was a stronger activation of brain regions linked to cognitive empathy -- trying to understand what a person is thinking or feeling and why, without as much emotional engagement.
This, said Rilling, might be linked to children’s cute appearance -- scientifically known as “baby schema,”

which the young of many species share in order to evoke a caregiving response.
Unlike other primates, humans are “cooperative breeders,” which means mothers get help in rearing offspring.
Rilling, who had previously conducted similar research on fathers, had wanted to turn his attention toward grandmothers in order to explore a theory in anthropology known as the “grandmother hypothesis.”
This holds that the evolutionary reason that human females tend to live long lives -- well beyond their own reproductive years -- is to provide benefits to their grown offspring and grandchildren.

Australia looks to wall off sensitive tech from China

AFP, Sydney

Australia yesterday announced measures to ring-fence dozens of sensitive technologies from foreign interference, stepping up efforts to safeguard against “national security risks” from China and others.
Prime Minister Scott Morrison unveiled a list of 63 “critical technologies” to be promoted and protected at an online forum in Sydney -- a step toward limiting what government, industry and universities can and cannot share with foreign counterparts.
The list includes 5G communications, quantum technologies -- which are based on

the physics of sub-atomic particles -- artificial intelligence, advanced magnets, 3D printing, drones and vaccines.
The measures aim to “balance the economic opportunities of critical technologies with their national security risks”, Morrison told a forum hosted by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.
Items on the list will not be automatically banned for export or proscribed, but may be subject to “additional risk management”, including measures to stop “unwanted tech transfer”.
Australia has become increasingly concerned about the transfer of

sensitive technology to foreign military powers, particularly to China, under the guise of academic cooperation.
Canberra has also moved to limit the ability of Chinese state-linked firms to operate critical infrastructure in Australia.
A decision to effectively bar Huawei from running Australia’s 5G network was the catalyst for a major diplomatic rift between the two countries.
For almost two years, high-level diplomatic contacts have been frozen and Beijing has levied a raft of sanctions that some have called a “shadow trade war”.
Australia is currently in the process of auctioning 5G spectrum licenses.



Migrants heading in a caravan to the US, protest as they walk past members of the Migration National Institute in Suchilapan del Rio, Jesus Carranza municipality, Veracruz state, Mexico, on Tuesday. Migrants seeking refugee status are marching towards the Mexican capital demanding “justice, dignity and freedom.”

PHOTO: AFP

Speech-impaired

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statement added.
Later that night, the brother lodged a complaint with Jalalabad Police Station and police rescued the victim and arrested the accused.
“The victim is undergoing treatment at One-stop Crisis Centre of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. The accused was sent to jail through court,” said Nazmul Huda Khan, officer-in-charge of Jalalabad Police Station in Sylhet.

Bangabandhu

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of the new toll rate, different associations of truck owners and workers demanded cancellation of the new rate while they were enforcing the strike over the fuel price hike.
Abu Bakr Siddique earlier said no one had raised the point before them.
In June this year, the board of BBA, which built and operates the bridges, decided to raise the toll rates to boost the income from the bridges.
With the money, the government wants to pay for the maintenance of the bridges and repay the loans it took to build them.

The toll rates for Bangabandhu Bridge were last raised in 2011. This is the first time the rates of Mukterpur Bridge have been increased since its inauguration in 2008.
The 4.8km Bangabandhu Bridge, which was opened to traffic in 1998, on the Jamuna is a vital strategic economic road, rail, energy, and telecommunication link between the western and eastern parts of the country.
The project was implemented at a cost of Tk 3,745 crore.
As per the new rates, the toll for a motorcycle crossing Bangabandhu Bridge is Tk 50, a car Tk 550, a microbus and a pickup Tk 600, a minibus Tk 750, a bus Tk 1,000, a small truck (up to 5 tonnes) Tk 1,000, a medium truck (5 and 8 tonnes) Tk 1,250 and a large truck (8 to 11 tonnes) Tk 1,600.
A three-axle truck has to pay Tk 2,000 and a 4-axle trailer has to pay Tk 3,000. An additional Tk 1,000 will be charged for each axle above four. There was no mention of this category in the previous toll rates.
Besides, Bangladesh Railway will have to pay Tk 1 crore annually for using the bridge. It was Tk 50 lakh earlier.

The BBA opened the 1.52km Mukterpur Bridge over the Daleshwari river in 2008. The bridge was built under a Tk 208.35 crore project to connect Munshiganj with Dhaka and Narayanganj.
As per the new decision, a motorcycle will pay Tk 15, an auto-rickshaw Tk 30, a car Tk 50, an SUV, microbus, pick up Tk 50 each, a minibus Tk 150, a bus Tk 250, a small truck (up to 5 tonnes) Tk 200, a medium truck (5 and 8 tonnes) Tk 250 and a large truck (8 to 11 tonnes) Tk 600 for using the structure.

Ugandan capital under tight security after deadly bombings

AFP, Kampala

Armed police and soldiers patrolled the Ugandan capital yesterday as security was stepped up following twin suicide bombings claimed by the Islamic State that killed three people in the heart of Kampala.
Ugandans have been urged to remain on high alert after Tuesday’s attacks, the latest in a string of bombings targeting the East African nation.
Checkpoints have been set up on several roads in Kampala, while the areas where the two bombings occurred have been closed off to motorists as teams of investigators scour the blast sites.

“Security has been stepped up in and around Kampala to ensure the public is safe from any possible dangers,” Kampala Metropolitan police spokesman Luke Owoyesigiyire told AFP.
“We encourage the public to remain on high alert as threats are real and high.”
Tuesday’s attacks occurred within minutes of each other, with two suicide bombers on motorbikes disguised as local “boda boda” motorcycle taxi drivers detonating a device near parliament, while a third attacker targeted a checkpoint near the central police station.
Several dozen people were injured, many of them police.
“I did not go to work in the market today because of the attacks yesterday,” 31-year-old mother of two Sylvia Nabukeera, who works in Kampala’s commercial hub of Kikuubo, told AFP.
“I have temporarily suspended work to take care of my kids until it is safe to go to work,” she added.
The bombings, which police had said were the work of “domestic terrorists” linked to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an armed group active in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, followed two attacks last month which Uganda also blamed on the ADF.