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MOON MISSION Nasa scrubs Artemis I launch again

REUTERS, Cape Canaveral

For the second time in five days, Nasa yesterday halted a countdown in progress and postponed a planned attempt to launch the debut test flight of its giant, next-generation rocket, the first mission of the agency's moon-to-Mars Artemis program.

The latest attempt to launch the 32-story-tall Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and its Orion capsule was scrubbed after repeated attempts by technicians to correct a leak of super-cooled liquid hydrogen propellant being pumped into the vehicle's core-stage fuel tanks.

Besides struggling to remedy the leak itself, the difficulty caused mission managers to fall behind in the countdown, leaving too little time to complete pre-launch preparations before liftoff.

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The long-cherished Bekutia bridge on the Kacha river in Pirojpur is set to be inaugurated today by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The 1.49km structure, officially named Bangamata Begum Fazilatun Nesa Mujib 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge, will establish direct road link between Barishal city and Pirojpur. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Water sharing mainly depends on India: PM

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has put on India the onus of resolving the issue of water-sharing of common trans-border rivers, including the Teesta deal.

"It's a long-standing problem. So, it should be solved. But it depends mainly on India," Hasina told ANI ahead of her four-day state visit to India from September 5.

The 35-second video was put on ANI twitter last night. The full interview will be aired on September 5 at 10:00am.

Hasina's remarks came on being pointed out by the interviewer "that on water sharing, there has always been trouble. Even on Teesta, after so many years, meetings didn't happen."

To another question that Indians see videos of say a Hindu temple being vandalised, Hasina said, "Some incidents sometimes take place but immediately we take action."

The Bangladesh and India Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) finalised the interim Teesta agreement in 2010.

It was set to be signed during the visit of then India's prime minister Manmohan Singh to

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Myanmar aircraft trespass again Ordnance land in Bandarban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Locals of Ghumdhum union in Bandarban's Naikkhangchhari upazila are panicked as two more ordnance fired from jet planes of Myanmar landed in Bangladesh yesterday, said police.

Two helicopters intruded into Bangladesh airspace, they said.

This is the second such incident within a week. Two ordnance had landed in the same area on August 28.

Border Guard Bangladesh has stepped up vigilance along Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Bandarban, sources have said.

Around 9:20am yesterday, the two jets and the helicopters flew into Bangladesh airspace over Ward 8 of Ghumdhum union, Bandarban Superintendent of Police Md Tariqul Islam told The Daily Star.

"The jets fired eight to 10 ordnance and the helicopters fired 30 to 35 more. Two ordnance fell inside Bangladesh, around 120 metres inside of the border," the SP said.

Tariqul said no casualties were reported in the incident but police and security personnel were on high alert and tightened security.

Quoting locals, Officer-in-Charge Tanto Saha of Naikkhangchhari Police Station, said, "Myanmar helicopters fired around 300 to 350 rounds in the morning, panicking locals. The helicopters were spotted again around noon ... when 30 to 35 rounds were fired."

"Mortar shells were also fired towards Muringajhiri

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"The jets fired eight to 10 ordnance and the helicopters fired 30 to 35 more. Two ordnance fell inside Bangladesh."
Md Tariqul Islam, Bandarban Superintendent of Police

JP INFIGHTING

AL throwing its weight behind Raushan?

RASHIDUL HASAN

Aggrieved by Jatiya Party chief GM Quader's recent criticism of the government, the Awami League high-ups are allegedly backing Raushan Ershad in a renewed fight over supremacy in the JP.

Raushan, chief patron of the JP and leader of the opposition, on Wednesday convened the party's national council for November 26, apparently in a bid to exert pressure on Quader.

Sources in the JP told The Daily Star that the pro-Raushan group plans to oust Quader from the party's helm during the council and take control of the main opposition in parliament.

The conflict between the two leaders worsened when JP Parliamentary Party on September 1 wrote to Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury requesting her to make Quader the leader of the opposition.

Quader is now the deputy leader of the opposition. Sources in parliament and the JP said though the Speaker is the supreme authority to make such a decision, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's blessing is vital.

Hasina, after a Business Advisory Meeting at Jatiya Sangsad on August 28, reportedly scolded Quader for his recent anti-government remarks outside parliament.

Meeting sources told The Daily Star that the PM criticised Quader over his meeting opposition parties about anti-government movement.

Following these developments, Quader in a speech in parliament on September 2 did not make any sharp

criticism of the government or raise any issue that could discomfort the government, a JP leader told The Daily Star.

Hasina was present in the House then. Quader even lauded Hasina for playing an important role in keeping parliament alive and meaningful.

He was not available yesterday for comments despite repeated attempts.

Meanwhile, the JP presidium at a meeting at the party chairman's Banani office yesterday said it unanimously supported the proposal of the JP parliamentary party to make Quader the leader of the opposition.

It also decided that anyone conspiring against the party would be expelled regardless of their posts within the party.

On Friday, Quader told reporters that another party was trying to implement its agenda using Raushan's name.

He said sometimes some quarters use Raushan to issue statements and notices that go against the party's position.

He also said Raushan was ill and unable to play her role as the leader of the opposition.

However, Golam Moshfi, political secretary to Raushan, told The Daily Star that the opposition leader was very much capable of doing her job.

"She is physically fit now. But it was unfortunate and surprising that they issued a notice to Speaker to drop Raushan from the post of the opposition leader ... She [Raushan] was deeply hurt by the move."

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Sri Lanka Danushka Gunathilaka whacks one during his side's four-wicket win against Afghanistan in the first game of the Super 4 stage of the 2022 Asia Cup. The left-hander scored 33 off just 20 balls, smashing two boundaries and two maximums. PHOTO: AFP

Team effort propels SL past Afghans

AFP, Sharjah

Kusal Mendis' fiery start and a key lower-order knock by Bhanuka Rajapaksa powered Sri Lanka to a four-wicket win over Afghanistan in their Asia Cup Super Four contest on Saturday.

Set 176 for victory, Sri Lanka leaned on an attacking 62-run opening stand between Pathum Nissanka (35) and Mendis (36) to achieve their target with five balls to spare at Sharjah.

Afghanistan's bowlers got regular wickets to dent Sri Lanka's middle-order but Rajapaksa's 31 off 14 balls and a quickfire 16 not out from Wanindu Hasaranga helped them achieve the highest chase at the desert venue.

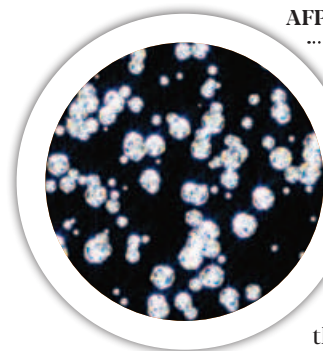
Earlier, Rahmanullah Gurbaz smashed 84 to guide Afghanistan to 175-6, a total that could have been bigger had Sri Lankan bowlers not hurt the Afghans with late strikes.

Gurbaz's effort came in vain after he put on a key second-wicket stand of 93 with Ibrahim Zadran, who made 40, after Afghanistan were made to bat first.

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It rains diamonds across universe

AFP, Paris



It could be raining diamonds on planets throughout the universe, scientists suggested, after using common plastic to recreate the strange precipitation believed to form deep inside Uranus and Neptune.

Scientists had previously theorised that extremely high pressure and temperatures turn hydrogen and carbon into solid diamonds thousands of kilometres below the surface of the ice giants.

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প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কার্যক্রমে সফলতার