



‘Let’s finish this job’

Biden, 80, makes 2024 presidential run official

REUTERS, Washington

President Joe Biden yesterday launched his re-election bid with a promise to protect American liberties from “extremists” linked to former President Donald Trump, who he beat in 2020 and might face again in 2024.

Biden made his announcement in a slickly produced video released by his new campaign team that opens with imagery from the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol by Trump’s supporters.

“When I ran for president four years ago, I said we’re in a battle for the soul of America, and we still are,” Biden said. “This is not a time to be complacent. That’s why I’m running for re-election.”

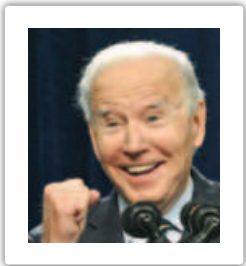
“Let’s finish this job. I know we can,” he said.

He described Republican platforms as threats to American freedoms, vowed to fight efforts to limit women’s healthcare, cut Social Security and ban books, and blasted “MAGA extremists.”

MAGA is the acronym for the “Make America Great Again” slogan of Trump, who is the early frontrunner in the Republican primary race. If he wins, he will face off against Biden again in the November 2024 election.

Biden, 80, must overcome Americans’ concerns about

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The pillars of the flyover near Malibagh level-crossing are a cluttered mess because of the unsightly posters. The photo taken yesterday shows a clear violation of a High Court order from early February. The court not only ordered removal of posters from the flyovers, but also asked the authorities to take action against those who deface pillars and walls.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

2 arrested in connection with bodies found in boat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

Police have arrested two fishermen accused in a case filed after the recovery of 10 bodies from the storage of a sunken fishing boat in Nazirartek, Cox’s Bazar.

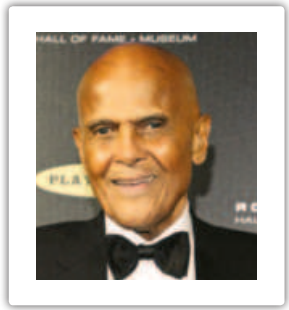
During primary interrogation, Kamal, who owns another fishing boat, and Karim Sikder, a fishing boat crew member, admitted that they were involved in the crime, said Mahfujul Islam, superintendent of police in the district.

Police heard that the 10 people found dead could have been lynched when they went to the sea to rob fishing boats, he told reporters at his office.

The suspects will be produced before a court with remand prayers for further interrogation.

Rokeya Akhter, widow of boat owner Shamsul Alam who was among the 10 victims, filed the case with

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Harry Belafonte dies at 96

AFP, New York

Harry Belafonte, the superstar entertainer who introduced a Caribbean flair to mainstream US music and became well known for his deep personal investment in civil rights, died Tuesday in Manhattan, his publicist said. He was 96.

The barrier-breaking artist-activist died of congestive heart failure at his New York home, according to the publicist’s statement.

Born in Harlem to a Jamaican mother and a father from the French territory of Martinique, the

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DMP to bring capital under CCTV coverage

Plans to add 50,000 private CCTVs to its central system to tackle rising crimes

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Dhaka Metropolitan Police is working to bring the whole capital under the surveillance of Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras to tackle rising crimes like murders, burglary, theft, and robberies.

For that, the DMP is counting heavily on voluntary public support.

Initially, it aims to incorporate around 50,000 private CCTV cameras into its surveillance apparatus. It has already started requesting area-based housing societies, apartment cooperatives, individual households and businesses to upgrade their existing CCTV cameras.

The DMP wants people to upgrade their existing CCTVs so that the devices can supply live feed and have II types of specialised features like face detection, automated alarm system, and vehicle number plate tracing.

“The upgrade of these private CCTVs is not being carried out under any government project. We are doing it solely with public support,” AKM Hafiz Akhter, additional commissioner (admin) of DMP, told The Daily Star.

“We, through police stations, are reaching out to the CCTV owners and requesting them to improve

The central monitoring system of the DMP now has around 680 CCTVs at 221 points in Dhaka city. There are also 625 CCTVs in Dhaka South City Corporation areas at 199 locations.



their camera quality. If they agree, these cameras will be brought under a central networking system so that we can get support from it,” explained the official.

Requesting anonymity, a DMP official said they are expecting a good response from the societies, households, and business owners as the upgrade and incorporation of their CCTV cameras into the central system will also help secure their premises.

With voluntary public support, according to DMP officials, around 1,500 CCTVs have been upgraded so far in Banani, Niketon, Gulshan, and Baridhara areas. Police have already begun monitoring live feed

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Govt moves to evacuate Bangladeshis from Sudan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has started making arrangements to evacuate Bangladeshis from Sudan as the warring sides have agreed to a 72-hour ceasefire that came into effect early yesterday.

How the Bangladeshis will be evacuated will depend on the situation, Shahriar Alam, state minister for foreign affairs wrote in a Facebook post yesterday.

The Bangladesh Embassy in Khartoum is circulating these messages to the Bangladeshis there, he added.

He urged Bangladeshis to register with the embassy. About 1,500 Bangladeshis are currently in Sudan, said Tariqul Islam, director of Africa Wing at the foreign ministry.

“Many countries,

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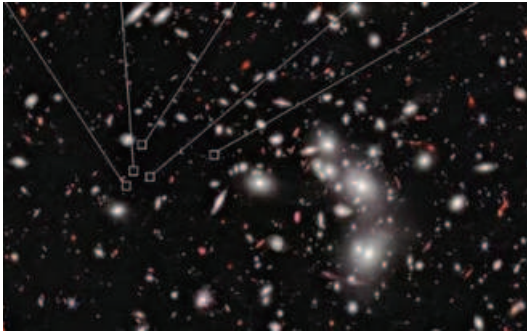
Webb telescope finds most distant galaxy cluster

INDEPENDENT ONLINE

The most distant cluster of galaxies ever seen by humans has been found by astronomers using NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope.

The advance sheds more light on the formative years of the early universe.

A cluster of seven galaxies was revealed at a distance astronomers refer to as redshift 7.9, according to the research, published on Monday in The Astrophysical Journal Letters.



The discovery showed the formation of the cluster a mere 650 million years after the big bang.

The nascent galaxy cluster will likely grow in size and mass to resemble the Coma Cluster – a “monster” of the modern universe – estimated scientists, including those from the California Institute of Technology in the US.

FACTIONAL CLASH

AL activist beaten to death in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An Awami League activist was beaten to death allegedly by supporters of another faction of the party in Kaunia upazila of Rangpur.

The deceased Sona Mia, 55, of Najirdah village under Haragach municipality, was a member of the AL’s Kaunia upazila unit.

The incident took place in front of Khansama Imamganj School around 8:30pm on Monday.

According to sources, Kaunia upazila unit AL organised an event at the school grounds, which Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi was supposed to attend to exchange Eid greetings.

Ahead of the programme, the victim, Sona Mia, his brother, Mukul Mia, and other AL activists started chanting slogans hailing Tipu Munshi, also the local lawmaker.

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Rescue teams search for victims in the rubble of a badly damaged building a day after multiple explosions caused by fire in a munitions cache levelled a specialist counter-terrorism police station in Kabal town of Swat Valley, in Pakistan’s northwestern region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, yesterday. The death toll from the explosions rose to 17, police said.

PHOTO: AFP

Sudan ceasefire largely holds

Countries step up evacuations; WHO warns of ‘huge biological risk’ after fighters occupy lab

AFP, Khartoum

A US brokered ceasefire between Sudan’s warring generals was largely holding in much of the capital yesterday, but witnesses in some areas reported ongoing clashes between the army and paramilitary forces.

Foreign nations stepped up efforts to evacuate their nationals from the chaos-torn nation, but security fears were compounded when the World Health Organization (WHO) warned of a “huge biological risk” after fighters occupied a Khartoum laboratory holding samples of cholera, measles, polio and other infectious diseases.

Ten days of heavy fighting until Monday – including air strikes and artillery barrages – have killed hundreds of people, many of them civilians, and left some neighbourhoods of greater Khartoum in ruins.

Much of the city of five million had seen a reduction in fighting, witnesses said, since foreign governments have scrambled road convoys, aircraft and ships to get their nationals out since the weekend.

Britain, which has thousands of citizens in Sudan, announced “a large-scale evacuation” from yesterday, with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak saying “priority will be given to the most vulnerable”.

Germany announced its last evacuation flight was scheduled to take off yesterday evening to Jordan.

Little was known about the security situation in remote areas of the poverty-stricken nation, after Darfur in particular has seen heavy fighting in recent days and the looting of aid depots.