



## US reiterates importance of free polls in Bangladesh

US security adviser held talks with PM in Washington

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, during her recent visit to Washington DC, held a meeting with US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, who talked about the importance of free and fair elections due in January next year.

"They also talked about the importance of improving our bilateral relationship across a range of issues, including climate change," John Kirby, US national security council coordinator for strategic communications, said at a media briefing in Washington yesterday.

He made the comment when he was asked about the meetings of Hasina -- one with Sullivan and the other with US President Biden alongside the G20 event in New Delhi last month.

Hasina, after attending the UN General Assembly in New York, went

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An aerial view of the under-construction Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna. The first plant of this kind in Bangladesh is all set to officially receive its nuclear fuel today.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ROSATOM

## Rooppur plant becomes nuclear facility today

Hasina, Putin to join fuel handover ceremony

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

With the handing over of radioactive fuel to Bangladesh authorities today, the country will be the 33rd nuclear fuel user in the world.

The Rooppur power plant will also become a nuclear facility.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Russian President Vladimir Putin are expected to attend the handover ceremony in Rooppur of Pabna via video link, says a press release issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), will also join the ceremony virtually.

Alexey Likhachev, director general of Rosatom State Nuclear Energy Corporation, on behalf of the Russian Federation, will hand over a certificate of fuel delivery and a model of the fuel assembly to Science and Technology Minister Yeafesh Osman.

Rosatom is building the 2400-megawatt

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SENDING KHALEDA ABROAD

## Presidential pardon her only way out

Says law minister; BNP says govt has power to send her for treatment

STAR REPORT

Apart from getting a presidential pardon, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has no option to go abroad for treatment, said Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday.

"Khaleda Zia can seek pardon from the president admitting her fault to go abroad for treatment," he told a press conference at his Secretariat office, reports BSS.

"The prime minister has exercised her executive power. There is no way to exercise her power again," the law minister said.

"It is a constitutional right of a person to seek mercy from the president. If

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## SMART NID DATA LEAK Info of 5.5 crore voters now in Telegram channel

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Personal information of the country's nearly 5.5 crore smart National Identity Card holders is now available in a Telegram channel, officials have acknowledged.

A Telegram bot provides people's names, gender, parents' names, phone numbers, addresses, photos and other details when a 10-digit NID number is entered, many have said.

Mohammad Ashraf Hussain, system manager at the NID wing of the Election Commission, said he learnt about the matter on Tuesday, but had no idea who was behind the

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**A Telegram bot provides people's names, gender, parents' names, phone numbers, addresses, photos and other details when a 10-digit NID number is entered.**

## Man killed by truck as he chased mugger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was run over by a truck and killed when he was chasing after a mugger who snatched a mobile phone from his car in the capital's Asad Gate on Tuesday night.

The victim Tajul Islam, 39, was a member of Manikganj Municipality Awami League, said Utpal Barua, officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

Tajul, along with some of his political aides and a relative, had come to Dhaka to meet the health minister.

Moshiul Azam Bhuiyan, sub-inspector of the station, said, "After they

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## North braces for flash floods as Teesta swells

Heavy rains, dam breach in Sikkim raise risk

STAR REPORT

Rising water levels of the Teesta's due to heavy rains, severe flooding, and a breach in a dam in India's northeastern Sikkim may trigger flash floods in the northern parts of Bangladesh.

A flood-like situation is likely to occur in Rangpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha and other areas adjacent to the Teesta, as the river was flowing above the danger level at the Dalia and Kaunia points yesterday, according to Flood

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**"The flood situation may worsen over the next few days. While the flood is likely to be of medium range, its impact will be severe."**

Md Arifuzzaman Bhuiyan, executive engineer of FFWC,

## US won't back those who stay away from polls

Says Momen

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

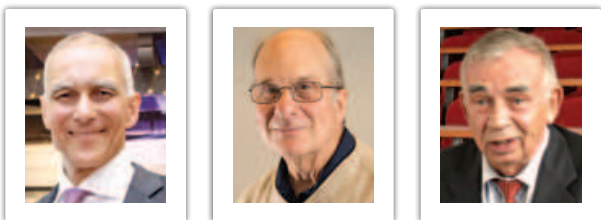
The US is not in favour of those who do not want to participate in elections, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday following his US and UK visits.

He said the government is committed to a free and fair election and the US wants to play a supportive role.

"They believe the government can change only through elections. They believe in democracy and want a democratic government. We also want a democratic government," Momen told reporters at

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## Trio win Nobel in chemistry for quantum dots



Bawendi

Brus

Ekimov

REUTERS, Stockholm

Scientists Mouni Bawendi, Louis Brus and Alexei Ekimov won the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their discovery of clusters of atoms known as quantum dots, now used to create colour in flat screens, light emitting diode (LED) lamps and devices that help surgeons see blood vessels in tumours.

The prize-awarding academy said the scientists had "added colour to nanotechnology" - when matter is used on an atomic or molecular level in manufacturing - and that their findings held great potential in many fields.

"Researchers believe that in the future they could contribute to flexible electronics, tiny sensors, thinner solar cells and encrypted quantum communication," the academy said in a statement yesterday.

The more than century-old prize is awarded by the

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A bus negotiates the waterlogged Sonadanga-Natunrasta road in Khulna city's Abu Naser Mor area. Many roads across the city have been flooded with rainwater as the sewers remain clogged with various kinds of waste, including plastic. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Prof Yunus to appear before ACC today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and two officials of Grameen

Telecom will place their statements, in person, to the Anti-Corruption Commission this morning in connection with a money laundering case.

Prof Yunus, chairman of Grameen Telecom, and its Executive Vice Chairman Md Ashraful Hasan and Managing Director Md Nazrul Islam will appear before the ACC investigation officer around 9:00am, their lawyer Abdullah Al-Mamun told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the IO, also an ACC deputy director, on September 27 issued letters asking them to appear at his office today and make their statements.

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