



Compartment of their own

WR1



Is stability possible without embracing pluralism?

P8



N Korea sending 'large-scale' troops to Russia

P6



Dengue danger not over yet

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BUDGET SUPPORT FROM WB, IMF, ADB Bangladesh may get \$5.65b by this fiscal year

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is expecting at least \$5.65 billion in budget support this fiscal year from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to expedite reforms.

Of the expected funds, the IMF is likely to provide \$3 billion, the World Bank \$1.5 billion and the ADB \$1.15 billion.

Around \$3 billion of the funds could come by December for stronger support to ensure good governance in banking and other sectors, according to officials at the finance ministry, Bangladesh Bank and the three development partners.

The global and regional lenders may impose several conditions for the loans, including some on revenue, public expenditure, and dissemination of data, finance ministry officials said.

A high-powered government delegation led by Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed will visit the US from October 21-29 to attend the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings.

They will sit with World Bank and IMF officials on the sidelines of the main



Sand has been illegally dumped on agricultural land to develop plots for housing projects in Khulna's Batiaghata area. Dumping of sand on arable land and filling up marshland and canals with sand in and around this area have been going on for about two decades to implement some 130 unauthorised housing projects. This has led to loss of farmland and increased waterlogging in Khulna city and its surrounding areas. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

It could be possible to hold polls by next year Says law adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul has said the next parliamentary polls may take place by 2025 after the completion of preparations, including the formation of a new Election Commission through a search committee.

"Realistically, I think the election could be held by next year," he said.

The adviser made these remarks during the Thursday night broadcast of the TV program "Ajker Patrika" on Channel I.

He was responding to a question from host Matiuir Rahman Chowdhury, chief editor of the Daily Manabzamin, regarding the election timeline.

Asif said a search committee will be formed

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WORLD BANK

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

ADB

TALKS WITH DEV PARTNERS

- Govt delegation to attend WB-IMF annual meeting in the US next week
- The team will hold talks with WB, IMF, MIGA, IFC, and US treasury department
- By Dec, IMF may provide more than \$1 billion, WB \$1 billion, ADB \$650 million

PROBABLE CONDITIONS

- Introducing single VAT rate
- Separation of tax policy from revenue collection administration
- Autonomy of BBS

Drive recovers 318 weapons in one and half months 1,748 firearms looted from law enforcers still unaccounted for

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Most of the firearms and ammunition looted from police and other forces in the days before and after the fall of the Awami League government still remain unaccounted for, raising concerns that these have fallen into the wrong hands.

Law enforcers and other forces on September 4 launched a drive to recover the lost arms and ammunition, but at least 1,748 weapons have yet to be found, according to officers.

As of October 14, only 318 arms have been recovered during the joint drive conducted by the armed forces, border guards, coast guards, police, Rab, and Ansar.

The recovered arms include the recently looted ones. However, the law enforcers do not know how many of the looted weapons have been recovered.

The recovered arms also include the ones with licences that were suspended on August 25, and ones that are illegal in Bangladesh.

"Without intelligence, it is difficult to make such an operation a success. You cannot search every house, looking for arms," says Air Cdre (ret'd) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury.

One of the reasons behind the lack of intelligence could be that the police as a force have lost its morale, he added.

"Meanwhile, the missing firearms may have been taken to the hilly areas or smuggled out of the country. Militants, some of whom have recently walked out of jail, could have got hold of them."

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Man stabbed to death 2 including BCL leader hacked in separate incident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A young man was stabbed to death, while a Chhatra League leader and his companion were hacked by unidentified attackers in two separate incidents in Sylhet city yesterday evening.

All three victims were sent to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital after the attacks around 7:30pm, police said.

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Harris, Trump descend on Michigan Blockbuster early voting underway in pivotal states

US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

17 DAYS TO GO

AFP, Detroit

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump headed to dueling rallies in Michigan yesterday as the White House rivals made closing pitches in pivotal battleground states where the election is underway and millions of Americans have already voted.

With less than three weeks to go, the Democratic vice president has seen encouraging signs in her push for supporters to vote as soon as possible, as a bulwark against the traditional Republican edge among Election Day voters.

As of early yesterday, 10.1 million votes had been cast — more than three million of them in the swing states expected to decide the election — according to nationwide state-reported data tracked by the University of Florida Election Lab.

Georgia has been smashing records, while North Carolina is on track to match the pandemic-linked early voting surge of 2020, despite being hit hard by a hurricane.

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Illegal cigarette warehouses busted in Ctg Huge quantity of fake cigarette papers of various brands seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A joint team of customs intelligence and VAT has seized a large quantity of foreign cigarette papers and fake bandedoles of different brands in Haliashahar and Nayabazar areas of Chattogram city.

Fake cigarette papers of British American Tobacco have also been recovered during the last two-day raid, as per the seizure list.

During the raid, cigarette-making equipment was also seized from four warehouses, owned by former councillor of Chattogram City Corporation Abdus Sabur Liton and his brother Abdul Mannan Khokon.

Contacted, Liton told The Daily Star that he did not know who kept the products in the warehouses.

On Thursday, about 3.38 crore fake cigarette stamps, 148 illegal white big rolls used for making cigarette packets, 425 white small rolls, 126 black big rolls, and 1,037 black small rolls and fake cigarette papers of British American Tobacco were recovered in a raid at Al Farid building in Ramna residential area of the port city, as per the seizure list.

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New Zealand players celebrate a wicket during their eight-run victory over the West Indies in the second semifinal of the ongoing ICC Women's T20 World Cup at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium yesterday. The victory meant that the White Ferns will now face South Africa in the final of the tournament at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium tomorrow.

PHOTO: AFP

Dilemma over Shakib's farewell Test continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's desire to play his farewell Test on home soil suffered a big blow yesterday when he was excluded from the 15-member squad for the first Test against South Africa, scheduled to start on October 21 in Mirpur.

After a drama-filled Thursday, where Shakib chose not to board a Bangladesh-bound flight from the UAE for security concerns and later on the day Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud revealed he had advised the cricket board to discourage Shakib from returning because of public anger, the selectors yesterday dropped the all-rounder and brought in uncapped left-arm spinner Hasan Murad.

"We have been informed that Shakib is unavailable for the first Test. He is at the end of his Test career but along with his experience, we still do not have someone of that calibre with both bat and the ball to replace him," chairman of the national selection panel Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu was quoted in a media release yesterday.



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