



Bangladesh Coast Guard of Pagla station seizes 1,700kg of jatka raiding launches in the Meghna near the Munshiganj Launch Terminal yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

PM hits out at Pakistan

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 "We can place a proposal in parliament in this regard. We can provide information and proof to different international organisations so that March 25 could be observed as genocide day."
 Hasina added that Bangladesh had been demanding that Pakistan offer apology for its involvement in genocide in 1971. But instead they were trying to put the blame on freedom fighters through the book.
 "Pakistan thought Bangladesh would not be able to do anything despite achieving independence. They thought Bangladesh would turn into a failed state. But Bangladesh has now become a role model for the rest of the world. That's why Pakistan couldn't accept this."
 Lambasting BNP chief Khaleda Zia, the PM said, "Khaleda had expressed her doubt about the number of martyred freedom fighters, and we can see the reflection of that claim in the book."
 Hasina said many Pakistani generals in their books admitted carrying out genocide in Bangladesh.
 After the end of the PM's speech, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury,

who was presiding over the sitting, said discussions would take place in parliament on a specific date in March on observing March 25 as genocide day.

Ex-JSD leader

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 said Nizam was not involved with their organisation now.
 OC Tazul said police went to Dobirchar area around 3:00am, acting on information that two gangs -- "Nistar Bahini" and "Julhas Bahini" -- were locked in a gun battle.
 At one stage, police opened fire to disperse the criminals and nab them. Nizam was hit by bullets and died on the spot. The others managed to flee, the police official said.
 Three constables were also injured during the "gunfight", he claimed.
 The police official also claimed to have recovered two firearms and three sharp weapons from the spot.

India launches

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 The rocket's main cargo was a 714 kilogram (1,574 pounds) satellite for Earth observation but it was also loaded with 103 smaller "nano satellites", weighing a combined 664 kilograms. The smallest weighed only 1.1 kilogram.
 Nearly all of the nano satellites are from other countries, including Israel, Kazakhstan, Switzerland and 96 from the United States.
 Eighty-eight of them are from Planet Inc - a San Francisco-based Earth imagery company - and weigh 4.5 kilogram each.
 Only three satellites belonged to India.
 Scientists sat transfixed as they watched the progress of the rocket on monitors until the last payload was ejected, and then began punching the air in triumph and hugging each other.
 This was PSLV's 39th successful mission, known as India's space workhorse.

Books on films

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 by film critic Anupam Hayat by Palal Prokashani drew readers' attention.
 Film students, enthusiasts and curious readers were also seen buying "Bangladesher Chalacchitra Shilpe FDC'r Vumika" by Md Rajibul Hasan and "Bangladesher Prekkhagriha" by Jannatul Ferdous Jhuma, published by Bangladesher Film Archive (BFA).
 Though there were books on films available at the fair, the number of research based books is not satisfactory, said readers and publishers.
 "Bangladesher Chalacchitra: Posterer Bibortan", a book on the evolution of movie posters, written by Mosharraf Hossain Mamun and Tania Sultana under the supervision of Prof Fahmidul Haq of DU, published by BFA, is among the few.
 Prof Fahmidul said his book on contemporary films of the country titled "Chalacchitra Path" from Adarsha Publication will hit the fairsoon.
 "We need more books on cinema, which will also help students [of film studies]," said AJM Shafiqul Alam Bhuiyan, founding chairman of television and film studies department at DU.
 On the 15th day of the fair, 143 new books arrived.

Woman held for 'killing stepson'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Police detained a woman for her suspected involvement in the killing of her stepson in Naogaon's Manda upazila yesterday.
 Murad Hossain, 12, son of Abdur Razzak of Bilkarilla village, went missing around 9:00am. Locals found his body in a gunny bag in the same village around 4:30pm.
 On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Naogaon General Hospital for autopsy.
 Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Manda Police Station, said Murad, a class six student at Bilkarilla High School, was suffocated.
 He said they detained Anjana Akter, the victim's step mother, on suspicion that she might have a hand in the murder.
 Often, Anjana and her husband used to quarrel over their son. They had a fight yesterday morning over the same matter. This could be a reason behind the killing, said police.
 A case was being filed, reported our Dinaipur correspondent around 9:00pm yesterday.

Families alone

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 Wherever she narrates the story, she shows people a photo of her son so that they could see how a cheerful, handsome and smiling boy turned into a jihadist all for a wrong reason.
 She said her mission would be successful, if she could transform her tragedy into something positive.
 Sabri, who like many others went to Syria with an illusion about jihad but got frustrated seeing the brutality unleashed in the name of Islam, wanted to return home. He, however, could not make it, said the mother.
 According to Saliha, racism, exploitation and injustice in a society often make its youths desperate and push them towards the path of radicalisation.
 Walking down the memory lane, she said radical behaviour of two teachers had a bad impact on Sabri and he decided to quit his studies.
 He was not getting any decent job. So, he had to work as a garbage collector, which made him very disappointed.
 Suddenly, he started turning more and more religious. He went to mosque to learn more about religion but the imam rejected him due to the language barrier. The imam couldn't speak Dutch or French while Sabri

didn't understand Arabic.
 Later, he was trapped by some Jihadist recruiters.
 One evening, Sabri asked for her mother's permission to go to a wedding and she happily agreed.
 The next morning, Saliha saw Sabri's bed empty. Immediately, she felt he joined jihad.
 The boy had left for the war-torn country.
 After Sabri's death, Saliha founded a non-profit organisation, Society Against Violent Extremism (SAVE) Belgium, whose goal is to fight all forms of violent radicalisation. She also works with social organisations -- Mothers School in Belgium and Women Without Borders in Vienna.
 She said she strongly believed that challengers could be overcome through combined efforts. So, she emphasised on launching social campaigns in Bangladesh to fight the menace of radicalism.
 The media can play a vital role in this regard by portraying the real side of extremism to all, she said.
 As part of her Bangladesh visit, which ends today, she is supposed to attend events at different schools, colleges and universities and talk to law enforcement agencies as well as families of some slain militants.

Norwegian FM

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 Speaking at a press briefing yesterday, Foreign Minister Mahmood said, "I had invited the Norwegian foreign minister to join the Amar Ekushey's midnight event. Borge Brende accepted the invitation and will attend [the programme] at central Shaheed Minar at midnight."
 The Norwegian foreign minister is also expected to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
 On the evening of February 20, the two foreign ministers will meet at State Guesthouse Padma in a bilateral meeting.
 During the meetings Dhaka is also expected to request the Norwegian minister to pursue Norwegian companies in investing in Bangladesh, especially in offshore oil and gas, shipbuilding and recycling, ICT, power generation and distribution, renewable energy and blue economy, said the foreign ministry sources.
 Borge Brende will leave Dhaka on February 21 morning.

Study links working remotely to more stress, insomnia

AFP, Geneva

Working outside an office may spare you from commutes and interruptions by colleagues but it also makes you more vulnerable to unpaid overtime, stress and insomnia, the UN said yesterday.
 A new report from the United Nations International Labour Organization studied the impacts of working remotely, with technological advances continuing to revolutionise conceptions of the workplace.
 Based on data taken from 15 countries, the ILO found that employees were more productive while outside of a conventional office but noted it also brought risks of "longer working hours, higher work intensity and work-home interference."

HC for probe to find

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 been working in different international organisations, left Bangladesh by selling their duty-free vehicles.
 The letter said the 16 duty-free vehicles in question were imported by WB officials. But the passbooks related to these vehicles have not been surrendered and the vehicles have remained "undisposed of".
 Under the law, all officials must surrender the vehicles before leaving the country and failure to comply is a punishable offence.
 And if any official fails to surrender the vehicles before leaving the country, the head of the organisation will be held responsible, said Moinul Khan, director general of CIID.
 Originally, the CIID opened the investigation into such unsettled vehicles previously used by all privileged persons of foreign nationality in July last year.

Following a meeting of the alliance at AL President Sheikh Hasina's political office at Dhanmondi, Nasim also alleged that Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus was the mastermind.
 He called on the House Speaker to summon Yunus and others "involved in the conspiracy" to stop the WB funding before a parliamentary body for questioning.
 The WB first suspended the \$1.2 billion loan deal, raising the allegation.
 In moves seen as government efforts to have the loan revived, Abul Hossain resigned, bridges division secretary Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan was sent to jail and PM's adviser Mashur Rahman was sidelined, though he held his post.
 Even so, the WB cancelled the credit in 2014, saying it had proof of corruption conspiracy involving Bangladesh officials, several executives of Canadian firm SNC-Lavalin and some individuals.
 In Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) pressed charges against five people, but charges against two people -- Mohammad Ismail and Abul Hasan Chowdhury -- were eventually dropped, according to the Globe and Mail newspaper.
 The case against the remaining three accused -- former SNC vice-president of energy and infrastructure Kevin Wallace, former SNC vice-president of international development Ramesh Shah, and Bangladeshi-Canadian businessman Zulfikar Ali Bhuiyan -- ended on Friday when the Canadian court acquitted all three.
 Earlier in October 2014, a Dhaka court acquitted all seven Bangladesh government officials, including Mosharraf Hossain. The same year, the Anti-Corruption Commission cleared all the seven of the graft charges.
 Following the WB's loan cancellation, the PM vowed to build the bridge with government funds. The construction of the 6.2km bridge over the Padma river is now underway and is expected to be completed by next year.
 At the moment, all traffic relies on ferries, which is time-consuming and sometimes risky.

Israel should 'hold back'

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 that they're taught from a very young age."
 Trump also signaled that Arab countries would be invited to help with negotiations to "make it easier" to achieve a peace deal. "I also believe that we're going to have other players at a very high level and I think it might make it easier on Palestinians and others."
 Trump declined to say whether he favored the two-state solution his past two predecessors have pursued in the region, instead saying he is "looking at two state and one state and I like the one that both parties like."
 On Tuesday night, the Trump administration signaled a major break with bipartisan US policy by not issuing a call for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A senior US official said yesterday that "it's not for us to impose that vision."
 Trump also spoke of Israel and America's joint opposition to Iran's nuclear ambitions, repeating a frequent criticism of the deal between Tehran and six world powers worked out under the Obama administration.
 "I will do more to prevent Iran from ever developing -- I mean ever develop-

ing -- a nuclear weapon," Trump said, referring to recent sanctions slapped on the country for a missile launch.
 Netanyahu praised Trump for his ability to handle the terror threat.
 "Under your leadership, I believe we can reverse the rising tide of radical Islam," he said. "Rolling back radical Islam, we can seize an historic opportunity because for the first time in my lifetime and for the first time in the life of my country, Arab countries in the region do not see Israel as an enemy."
 He added, "This change in our region creates an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen security and advance peace."
 Netanyahu arrived at a White House in turmoil following the resignation of national security adviser Michael Flynn and CNN's report that top Trump campaign officials, including Flynn, were in contact with suspected Russian operatives during the campaign, according to multiple former and current officials.
 Trump and his advisers have signaled that he will seek to strike a much friendlier stance toward Israel, a change Israeli officials have welcomed after the combative and at-times bitter relationship between Netanyahu and

President Barack Obama.
 Still, his administration's policy toward Israel is not yet fully formed. That could provide Netanyahu with an opening to influence that policy during his visit on Wednesday, but it also means that Trump has backed off some of his bolder statements backing Israel's positions.
 During the presidential campaign, he encouraged Israel to "keep going" with its construction of settlements in the West Bank. But Trump said in an interview last week that he believes settlements "don't help the process" and are not a "good thing for peace," before his even sharper language Wednesday.
 He has also stepped back from his campaign pledge to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, now saying he is "studying" the issue.
 Trump also said during the campaign that he would recognise Jerusalem as Israel's "undivided" capital -- a controversial move that since current US policy is to address Jerusalem's status in a final peace agreement. Trump has not signaled whether he will follow through on that pledge.

Creature

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 once so we might as well do something different with him."
 Ronnie said: "He is the real life bull in a china shop although I'm surprised he doesn't do more damage with his 400lbs head when he comes and goes as he pleases.
 "It's like a car coming through the house, he has his own room where he watches TV but his favourite room requires a bit of furniture moving to get him in each time."
 They sold their herd after Ronnie lost vision in his left eye and could no longer keep up with the demands of looking after the huge animals.
 Wild Thing is now entering middle age at the age of 11, and has now even become good pals with Ronnie and Sherron's pack of wolves.
 Ronnie said: "Wild Thing is such a part of our family that he was my best man when we got married ten years ago.
 "It's always a tight squeeze whenever you want to walk past him in the house and luckily all our doorways are big enough for him.
 "He has a barn and land to walk about in but he loves coming in to watch TV, he likes fast moving stuff so doesn't care much for the news."



US President Donald Trump (R) and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hold a joint press conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington, DC, yesterday.