

# Such statue

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 urged the Alem-Ulema to have patience. "Keep faith in me, I'll do whatever necessary."  
 She called upon them to influence the youths and children so that they do not take the wrong path of terrorism and militancy.  
 "Islam is a religion of peace and this holy religion is now being maligned due to the terrorist and militant activities of some people," she added.  
 The PM sought blessings from the countrymen and the Alem-Ulema so that the Awami League can run the country successfully.  
 Later, Allama Shah Ahmad Shafi, chairman of Bangladesh Qawmi Madrasa Education Board, conducted a munajat.  
 Imam of Sholakia Eidgah and President of National Deenia Education Board Maulana Farid Uddin Masud, Maulana Nur Hossain Quasemi, Maulana Abdul Basir, Maulana Arshad Rahmani, Maulana Abdul Quddus, Maulana Ruhul Amin and Maulana Abdul Halim Bokhari also spoke at the meeting.

# Modi to send

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 The date of the team's visit would be finalised soon, highly-placed sources told The Daily Star last night. The experts would be accompanied by officials from the federal Indian and West Bengal governments.  
 The experts would have a first-hand survey of the dams and ascertain the availability of water during the current lean season. Later, the team would submit a report to the federal Indian government, the sources added.  
 A meeting was held between the Indian PM's Principal Secretary Nripendranath Mishra and West Bengal Home Secretary Malay Dey in New Delhi on April 6, a day before West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee reached Delhi for talks with Modi and Hasina on the Teesta issue.  
 After talks, Mamata told the media that she had conveyed to the two PMs that due to withdrawal of Teesta water for power generation in upstream Sikkim, the availability of water in the river in West Bengal has gone down, posing a challenge to irrigation, drinking water and power generation in her state.  
 Sources said if enhanced water flow could be ensured and water level normalised in the West Bengal part of the Teesta, the Mamata government may be willing to consider the treaty with Bangladesh.  
 The experts' team would find out how much water was being used in that state for power generation and the water level at a given point of time in the dams and would explore ways to reform the dams in a bid to rationalise the use of water for generating electricity, the sources said.  
 At a joint news conference with Hasina at the Hyderabad House on April 8, Modi had said that his government and the Hasina dispensation in Bangladesh "can and will find a solution to the Teesta issue."  
 For her part, Hasina, on the final day of her four-day visit to India on Monday, had said that if Teesta treaty was signed, it would transform relations between India and Bangladesh.

# Lebanon army order evicts 3,000 Syria refugees from camps

AFP, Beirut  
 Around 3,000 Syrian refugees have left their tents in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley after oral eviction orders issued last month by the army, Human Rights Watch told AFP yesterday.  
 Lebanon is home to over one million Syrian refugees, many of whom live in informal tented settlements set up on private agricultural land across the country.  
 In late March, Lebanon's armed forces said refugees living in camps near security installations, like the Riyaq military airport, would have to leave.  
 At the time, a security source told AFP that the decision had been "taken for security purposes".  
 "There cannot be large population centres around military bases. We choose security -- security over any other consideration, the security of our bases over everything else," the source said.  
 Human Rights Watch has said a total of 10,000 Syrian refugees were at risk of displacement from camps.  
 "About 3,000 people have left their homes of their own accord after receiving oral eviction notices," HRW's Lebanon researcher Bassam Khawaja told AFP.  
 "The orders came out starting in late March... and they gave people between 7-10 days to evacuate their camps," Khawaja told AFP.  
 Although the deadline had already passed, HRW said the army had yet to carry out any forced evictions.  
 "But the big issue is there continues to be a lack of clarity from the government and the army about where these people are supposed to move to," Khawaja said.

# Clarification

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 effect from 31.12.2000 and since then our Law Firm had no relationship with NIKO at all. (We have both the documents with us).  
 The so-called opinion dated 27.2.2003 without addressing any client or any reference number and allegedly signed by Mr. Azizul Haq as an advocate and not on behalf of the Law Firm is fictitious and forged. I have no knowledge about the so-called opinion dated 10.8.2003 which also must have been forged.  
 As soon as such kind of news came out in the 'Daily Prothom Alo' Mr. Azizul Haq immediately lodged a protest on the same day as reported in the 'Daily Prothom Alo' on 29.7.2005 stating that the opinion was not given by him and it was not his signature. Some vested quarters must have forged the letterhead of Moudud Ahmed and Associates.  
 With regard to the payments mentioned in your report one on 12 October 2000 and the other on 15 January 2002 were not paid to me but to the Law Firm against their bills for the work it had done for NIKO during the period of their Agreement. It is

# Nothing to hide

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 victim of the wrong decision, the PM added.  
 She said Bangladesh would wait for the signing of the Teesta agreement as West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee didn't discard the possibility of striking the agreement.  
 Mamata stressed the need for linking other rivers to increase the flow and proposed conducting a feasibility study on river linking, she said.  
 Indian PM Narendra Modi assured that the deal would be inked during the tenure of the incumbent governments of the two countries, Hasina told her audience.  
 "So, we will wait and take our own steps for dredging the Teesta and the Brahmaputra to enhance their storage capacity and use the water in need."  
 The PM said she accepted Mamata's proposal to purchase 500 MW more electricity from West Bengal and was waiting for the chief minister's next response.  
 About her government's policy on the relations with India and China, she said Bangabandhu's policy -- "Friendship with all, malice to none," -- was the guiding principle of its foreign policy.  
 "India and China might have problems in their bilateral relations, but Bangladesh would maintain good relations with every country."  
 Bangladesh, she said, needed to have good relations with all countries for its rapid prosperity as the nation lost much time to develop after the killing of Bangabandhu.  
 Hasina said the business delegation, which accompanied her to India, found opportunities and trade partners and a total of 12 MoUs were signed under which huge Indian investment would come to Bangladesh.  
 About conferring awards on the fallen Indian soldiers during the Liberation War, Hasina said the event elevated Bangladesh's position to a new height as a nation.  
 She said she had official talks with the Indian premier and meetings with President Pranab Mukherjee and Vice-President Hamid Ansari.  
 Hasina said 11 agreements and 24 MoUs were signed between the two countries about cooperation in various sectors. Among those were 13 deals and MoUs on cooperation on economy and investment of \$9 billion.  
 She said after the bilateral talks, the two sides issued a 62-point joint declaration which contained clear guidelines on existing and future relations between the two neighbours.  
 The Indian premier pledged to stand by Bangladesh on the issue of Genocide Day when she raised the issue saying that Jatiya Sangshad unanimously passed a bill declaring March 25 as the Genocide Day.  
 Modi also announced that India would grant five-year multiple-entry visa to freedom fighters as well as provide free medical treatment to 100 freedom fighters every year, she said.  
 About the signing of MoUs with India on defence framework, the PM said such MoUs were nothing new as cooperation in military areas among nations was quite common.  
 "Even we procure many items from Pakistan. Bangladesh has such agreements with China, Belarus, France, Kuwait, Russia, Turkey, Singapore, South Korea, Turkey, the USA and the UK."  
 Hasina said a process was underway for signing such agreements with Bahrain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Malaysia, Palestine, the Philippines and Russia.  
 Bangladesh inked its first defence agreement with Turkey in 1981 and the defence pact with China was signed keeping the people in the dark, she told journalists.  
 "Nobody knows when the agreement was signed and what it contained," she said, adding that those who inked the agreement secretly were talking much about the defence agreement with India.

admitted by NIKO as published in your report saying that the amounts were paid for the job done before I became a Minister.  
 The opinions given by the Ministry of Law at various stages on the issue of NIKO under the Rules of Business of the government had nothing to do with the so-called opinion given by the forged signature of Mr. Azizul Haq. The substance of the opinion of the Ministry of Law was given to uphold the principles of continuity of the terms of international Agreements already committed to a foreign company approved by the Prime Minister of the last government. The Ministry of Law in their opinion only reconfirmed what the last government had committed in order to avoid any international litigation. The "Guidelines of the Procedure for Marginal and Non-Producing Gas Fields," the "Framework of Understanding (FOU)" signed between the parties and the draft of the "Joint Venture Agreement" between NIKO and Bangladesh government represented by BAPEX, the three basic instruments, were already approved by the previous government.

According to Hasina, the MoU was signed for arranging military training, seminars, exchange of visits, joint exercise, celebration of events on Liberation War, excursion, exchange of trainers and observers, procurement of military equipment, monitoring the peacekeeping activities, training on disaster management and cooperation in the areas of medicare facilities.  
 She said a consensus with neighbouring countries was very crucial for modernising the defence forces and their institutions.  
 The interest rate of the credit to be available under the MoU would be only 1 percent and the loan would be payable in 20 years, said the premier. Under the MoU, Bangladesh would pick its items without Indian inference.  
 Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmood, and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam were present.

# Trump moves to quell White House infighting

AFP, Washington  
 Donald Trump has moved to end infighting that has pitted his son-in-law against his chief strategist in an internecine battle over the soul of the White House.  
 For the briefest of moments on Monday morning, members of his staff looked like they were having fun when smiles and backslapping briefly replaced the tension, chaos and exhaustion of 80 days in Trump's pressure-cooker White House.  
 The president's senior aides -- including Reince Priebus, Steve Bannon, Sean Spicer and Kellyanne Conway -- were milling around the White House Rose Garden awaiting the historic swearing of Trump's first Supreme Court Justice under gentle spring sunshine as the Marine Band offered strains of Delibes.  
 "I've always heard that the most important thing that a president of the United States does is appoint people," Trump said of the major political victory of getting Neil Gorsuch on the bench. "Hopefully great people like this appointment to the United States Supreme Court."  
 "And I got it done in the first 100 days."  
 But during that time, life inside Trump's administration has been far from idyllic.  
 Staff in any White House grow weary. But just five percent of the way into Trump's four-year term, staffers already appear exhausted from near-constant firefighting and drama.

# Remove

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 Pakistan and Italy.  
 The mayor said he would do his best to ensure the missions' security but "it is not acceptable that people can't walk on streets or footpaths".  
 He also expressed surprise at several foreign missions setting up "security barriers" occupying their adjacent pavements, says a Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) press release issued yesterday.  
 He hoped other countries would follow the US and Canada who have opened pavements adjacent to their missions in Gulshan. Australia has also given assurance to cooperate, he said.  
 Anisul also said they contacted different foreign missions in the last several months and got help from most of them. He, however, said some missions were yet to provide them with the assistance expected from them, said the release.  
 "We want to convince them. We are not trying to force, but we hope they would agree and respond to our call," he added.

# A traditional toy

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 profession. For the rest of the year he sells cosmetics from his van. "It takes skill to produce the finest temtemi," he laments, "It's a handicraft but I have never received any support or interest from government authorities to protect this tradition."  
 "We can't survive on temtemi and other festival items anymore," says Khali's wife Zulekha Begum. "Chinese-made plastic products have grabbed the market, so we won't be teaching future generations in our family how to make temtemi."  
 "I will continue to make temtemi during the Baishakh season for as long as my health supports it," says Khali, "and if anybody wishes to learn how to make them I will gladly teach them." But, he fears, temtemi might be lost in the years to come, a noisy and colourful tradition destined to belong only in museums.

# 4 sued

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 Khokon Biswas, son of freedom fighter Rajab Ali of Shimakhali in Magura, accused them of picking up his father on August 15, 1971, in Shimakhali Bazar area and hacking him to death at a mango orchard in Chandpur village, his lawyer said.  
 Abdul Hannan Khan, coordinator of the International Crimes Tribunal's investigation agency, told The Daily Star that they would follow their procedure once they received the case documents.  
 The investigation agency usually carries out a preliminary investigation after receiving allegation against a war crimes suspect. If the investigators find evidence against the suspect, the agency begins a formal investigation.  
 The Daily Star could not reach the accused for comments.  
 Khokon filed the case on Thursday and the Court of Senior Judicial Magistrate took it into cognisance yesterday.

# Family asked

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 security in and around the Kashimpur jail yesterday.  
 As per the jail code, the jail authorities can execute death sentences between 21st and 28th day from the date of issuance of death warrants.  
 The Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal issued death warrants for the militants on March 22 and so today is the 22nd day.  
 Earlier in December last year, the Supreme Court upheld the death penalties for the Huji militants, including Mufti Hannan, for carrying out the grenade attack.  
 After the three condemned militants filed mercy petitions, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan on Sunday told reporters that the president rejected them.  
 Three people were killed and some 70 others, including Anwar Choudhury, injured in the May 21, 2004 grenade attack at Shahjhal Shrine in Sylhet after the Jama prayers.  
 The Bangladesh-born British diplomat suffered minor leg injuries barely 18 days into his new assignment.

# Myanmar

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 National Security Advisor Thaug Tun said the government had begun with three camps named in the commission's report, including one sheltering ethnic Rakhines and one that houses Kaman Muslims.  
 The largest of the three includes more than 200 houses full of Rohingya Muslims, a heavily persecuted minority.  
 "We have initiated the process to close down three IDP (internally displaced persons) camps," Thaug Tun told a briefing, without giving details of where people would be moved to.  
 "In Kyauk Phyu, there are IDP camps for Rakhines... Sittwe for the Rohingya group and Ramree... mostly for Kamans."  
 Myanmar has long faced international condemnation for its treatment of Rakhine's more than one million Rohingya, who many from the Buddhist majority reject as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.  
 The vast majority are not granted citizenship and face severe restrictions on their access to education, healthcare, food and movements despite many living there for generations.  
 The issue has reached boiling point in recent months after the army launched a bloody crackdown in the north of Rakhine thought to have claimed hundreds of lives after attacks on several police border posts in October.  
 United Nations investigators say Myanmar's security forces may have carried out crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya during that crackdown.  
 De facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi last week rejected the accusations, telling the BBC that the term ethnic cleansing was "too strong an expression".  
 Thaug Tun also defended the government on Monday, saying authorities were doing their best to push forward the citizenship verification process.  
 "We want to dissolve the issue of statelessness. We need the cooperation of all stakeholders in order for us to go forward," he said.  
 "It has nothing to do with discrimination... It has nothing to do with ethnic cleansing."

# Raudha 'took her own life'

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 dormitory. The Daily Star obtained a copy of the probe report.  
 Sanjeev Bista, one of Raudha's classmates, in her statement said her friend sent her a text message on March 9, stating that she would commit suicide ahead of the exam and later she said she was only joking.  
 "When I heard about her suicide, I thought it was a joke. Because I thought that a girl like her could not commit suicide," Sanjeev wrote.  
 According to the report, Raudha, the lone resident of the room, closed the latch on her door vertically. The latch slipped down and the door opened as some students and staff banged on it after her death.  
 Students shouted for saving Raudha as they thought she was still alive. Insha Chisti, a 3rd-year student, got her down on the bed, added the report.  
 Insha in her statement said she tried to open the knot of Raudha's scarf

# Doing it

FROM PAGE 16  
 family members live in the village and they can't use that road. If a villager becomes sick they have to travel a circuitous route to reach hospital."  
 According to local engineer Pulak Kanti Barua, who is also convener of the Bangladesh Bangalee Adivasi Union, villagers offered not only physical labour on the day, but also contributed financially.  
 "Local chairmen and lawmakers over the years gave endless assurances regarding the road," says Sarit Chowdhury, one of the organisers of the event. "But they took no action. Villagers had to use a by-pass to reach upazila headquarters, which adds an extra eight kilometres to the journey. Students in particular suffered. Now we can reach the upazila town within 20 minutes."  
 "This community roadwork is a shining example of what collective social work can accomplish," says Ranabir Ghosh, chairman of the local

# Happy ending?

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 to disclose the sensational news of her marriage to the "King of Dhallywood" and the birth of their son.  
 "I'm still waiting for him to call me. I'm happy that he is coming back," Apu told The Daily Star over phone earlier yesterday.  
 After Apu dropped the bomb on Monday, Shakib admitted his wedlock to Apu. He had said he would accept their son but not Apu, as she was conspiring to destroy his career.  
 "She never wanted to be my wife, she only wanted to be a movie star," Shakib told The Daily Star on Monday evening.  
 His remarks sparked outcry all over social media as netizens criticised the superstar for refusing to accept his wife.

# No cheers

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 Anis A Khan, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank and chairman of Association of Bankers Bangladesh, said their staff are highly paid and they get several bonuses.  
 Mobile phone operators have been making hefty profits every year but they have not yet introduced the new bonus for their employees.  
 Quazi Mohammad Shahed, chief human resource officer of the country's largest mobile phone operator Grameenphone, said "Baishakhi bonus" is not a mandatory reward element by legislation, hence Grameenphone has not introduced it as "our other bonuses are competitive and many other companies don't have equivalent bonuses in their reward portfolio".  
 The government has directed all educational institutions throughout the country to celebrate Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla calendar.  
 Shafiu Azam, headmaster of Bamankhali High School in Satkhira's Kalaroa upazila, told The Daily Star that this year's Pahela Baishakh is on a Friday, the weekend. Yet, he has asked his colleagues to be present on the day.  
 Teachers of the MPO-listed school would turn up, but unlike government school teachers, they are not getting the festival bonus.  
 Journalists portray happiness and suffering of the people. Even this Baishakh, they would write pieces and air programmes highlighting the celebration of the Bangla New Year with great fervour, but only a few media houses have so far introduced Baishakhi bonus.  
 Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said the board that fixes wages for journalists would determine whether Baishakh festival allowance would be included in the next wage board.  
 "It won't be right to make a comment in this regard not being in the board," he said.  
 Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, president of a section of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), said some media outlets have already started giving this allowance after Prime

which was tied to the ceiling fan. "Someone gave me a knife. I cut her scarf and got her down on the bed thinking her to be alive."  
 Prof Mukit said they would send copies of the probe report to law enforcers, Rajshahi deputy commissioner and health and education ministries.  
 The four other members of the probe committee are Prof M Emdadur Rahman, also a member of the autopsy team, Prof M Obaidullah, Prof M Mamunur Rashid and Dr Laila Akter, in-charge of the women's dormitory.  
 Raudha's father Mohamed Athif on Monday filed a murder case with a Rajshahi court against a student. Directed by the court, Shah Makhdom Police Station recorded the case yesterday.  
 In a tweet on Monday, Athif alleged that the local police and the college authorities were trying to frame her "daughter's murder as a suicide".

Dhalaghat union who inaugurated the event. When asked why the council had never repaired the road, he said he was unsure why the previous chairman was indifferent about it, but that he would ensure the road's development from now on.  
 Interestingly, the road has always held significance beyond being a vital transport link. It is a historical route named in honour of anti-colonial activist Masterda Surja Sen, who used the road to evade British authorities following his participation in a revolt in the 1930s. This road, a long time symbol of the first struggle for independence has now acquired a second, inspiring meaning. Communities too can act independently. When they do, there's little that can't be achieved.  
 "If we waited for the government," reflects Seema, "we wouldn't have ended up with such a good road and more than that, we never would've known how it feels to accomplish something as a community, together."

Their wedding was at Shakib's Gulshan home, Apu said. Their son Abraham Khan Joy was born on September 27, 2016, at a Kolkata clinic.  
 During Monday's TV show, Apu broke down in tears as she alleged that Shakib had compelled her to remain silent about their marriage and their son for a long time.  
 Shakib had been contacted by several TV channels but he tactfully avoided answering when asked why he kept his marriage a secret.  
 "You better ask her," was his answer.  
 On Monday's show Apu said she and film actress Bubby had a disagreement.  
 Bubby in a Facebook post yesterday morning said Apu never wanted Shakib Khan and her to work together.

# DMP draws

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 teams will be working to prevent mugging and stalking.  
 "There is no specific security threat this year," said Asaduzzaman, adding that law enforcement agencies were capable of handling any security situation.  
 The ban on wearing masks in "Mongol Shovajatra" and vuvuzelas will stay in effect for a second consecutive year. However, participants can hold in their hands masks and models of objects associated with Bangali heritage.  
 Once in motion under police escort, none will be allowed to join the procession arranged by the DU fine arts faculty, said Asaduzzaman.  
 Open-air programmes in DU have been asked to close by 6:00pm and elsewhere by 5:00pm. Indoor celebrations can be held once permission has been taken from the authorities concerned.  
 A map on diversion plans for 27 points has been prepared as roads leading to DU from the Sonargaon intersection, Kataban, Paltan, Chankharpool and Nilkhet will be sealed off.  
 DMP has made DU off limits to motorcycles and banned pillion passengers outside. However, consideration will be given if the passenger is the spouse or offspring of the rider.  
 Even after 6:00pm, only vehicles carrying stickers issued by the DU authorities will be allowed to enter. Last year, this ban was relaxed the following day.