

Perfect Combination: Xtreme & Maxima
MAKE YOUR STRUCTURES STRONG FROM WITHIN

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE

Fighting tobacco with lemons

Cox's Bazar freedom fighter leads by example

MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT with ENAMUL HUQ and ANDREW EAGLE

Freedom fighter Mozaffar Ahmed, 63, from Fulunir Char village in Kaurkhop union of Ramu upazila in Cox's Bazar, who at the age of 16 took up arms to fight in the 1971 Liberation War, has since been engaged in a new battle. Ultimately, he hopes to rid his district of harmful tobacco farms. It's a long-running campaign that relies not on armaments but primarily on lemons, a campaign that he leads by example.

Thanks to the patronage of foreign and local tobacco companies, tobacco farms are still a worrisome part of the landscape in Chakoria and Ramu upazilas in Cox's Bazar, as well as in adjacent areas of Bandarban. "I want to counter the aggression of tobacco companies," Mozaffar says. "I established a multipurpose farm in Lot Ukhiarghona village in the hope that a successful tobacco-free farm could encourage other farmers to ditch tobacco."

He planted mangoes and lemons, and incorporated a fish farm. He started rearing foreign-bred cattle. Mozaffar took tobacco farmers to see his farm.

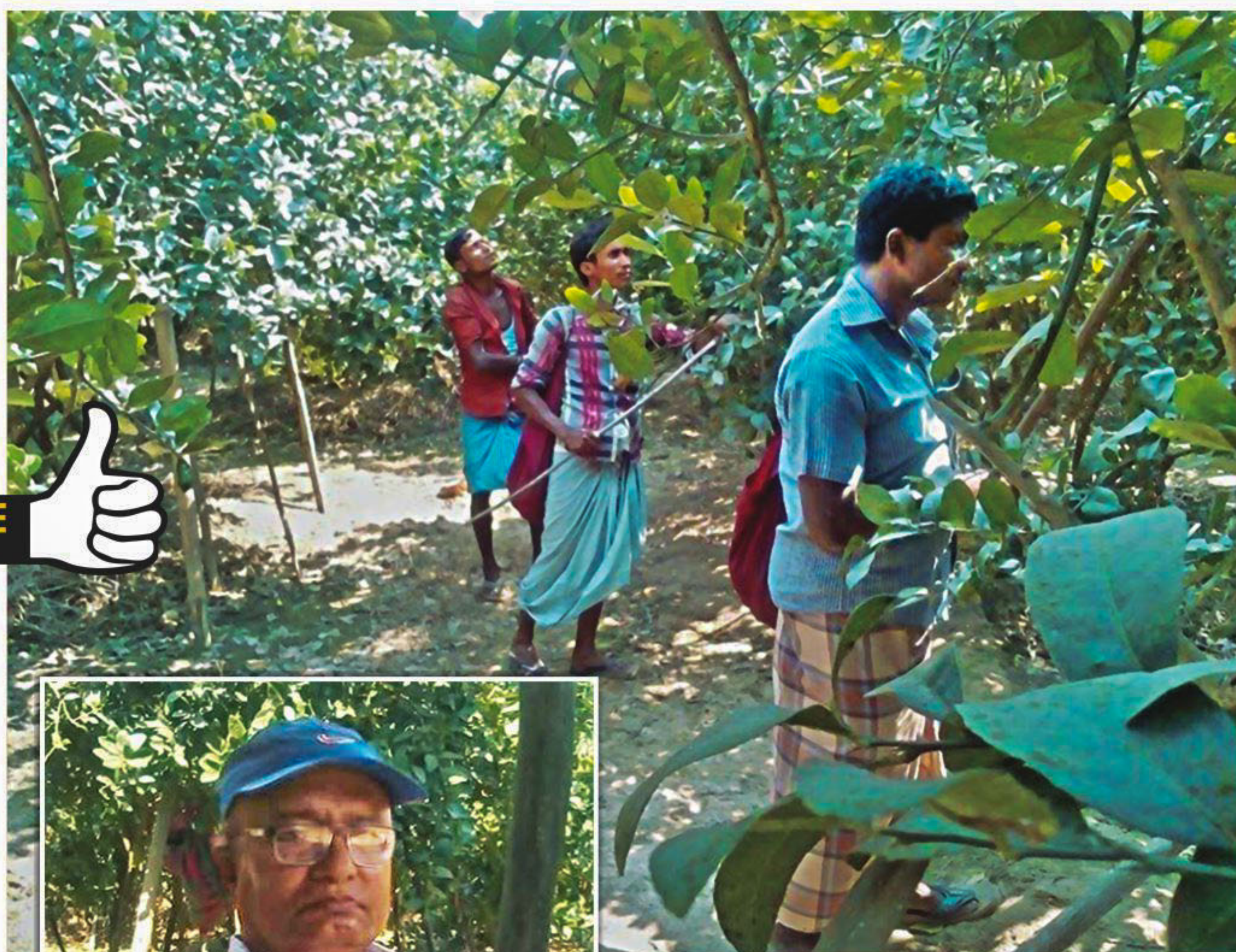
The enormous 1991 cyclone caused significant damage to Mozaffar's farm but he did not quit. He sold some land to become re-established and by 1993 lemons were providing him an income of around Tk 1.3 lakh.

In 2012, Mozaffar set up a commercial seedless lemon orchard on two acres in Char Haitupi beside the Bakkhali river. He also introduced the seedless variety to 1.5 acres of his Lot Ukhiarghona farm, reaching a total of 1,200 lemon trees on both properties, each of which can produce up to 200 lemons at a time.

"I harvest lemons year-round," he says. "My orchards meet half the demand for lemons in Cox's Bazar." Indeed, wholesalers from Teknaf, Cox's Bazar and Chittagong are in regular contact with Mozaffar, placing phone orders for his lemons.

"At present, demand for lemons is very high but production is low. As a result, the price is rising," he says. One lemon can fetch as much as Tk 7 with

CHANGE MAKER



For freedom fighter Mozaffar Ahmed, inset, it's a new battle. He is now fighting the tobacco menace by planting lemon trees in the hills, where tobacco farming is all too common. PHOTO: STAR

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Shab-e-Meraj tonight

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Meraj will be observed tonight across the country with due respect and religious fervour.

The Muslims every year on the 27th night of the Arabic month of Rajab observe the Shab-e-Meraj. On this night, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had embarked on a special journey to meet Allah.

In the journey, the Prophet (PBUH) travelled on the "Buraq" to heaven where Allah gave him instructions to take back to the faithful regarding the details of prayers.

Different Islamic organisations will arrange special prayers and milad mahfils in mosques and other places to seek blessings of the almighty Allah.

Devotees offer special prayers all the night at mosques and homes to seek blessings of Allah for the welfare of the entire nation and the Muslim Ummah.

Teesta issue will be resolved soon

Arun Jaitley tells Muhiith

REJAUL KARIM BYRON, from Washington DC

Reiterating Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment over Teesta water-sharing deal with Bangladesh, its Finance Minister Arun Jaitley yesterday said the issue would be resolved very soon.

"The relation between the two countries is very good now. Only the issue of water sharing of Teesta river has remained unsettled. Our prime minister has said it would also be resolved. Now, I am also saying it will be resolved soon," he told

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

PRAYER TIMING APRIL 24
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-27 8-00
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-31 8-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Man survives on leaves for 25yrs



PTI, Lahore

A man in Pakistan's Punjab province has been surviving on fresh leaves and wood for the last 25 years and has never fallen ill.

Mehmood Butt, 50, who hails from Gujranwala district in Punjab province, started eating on leaves at the age of 25 as he had no work and could not afford a basic meal.

"There was too much poverty in my family. Everything was beyond limit and it was very difficult for me to get a meal, so I thought it is better to eat wood rather than begging on a street," Butt said.

"Eating wood and leaves has become my habit now," Butt was quoted as saying by 'The News International'.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Police probing Romel's death

STAR REPORT

Rangamati police yesterday started investigating the death of Romel Chakma, an indigenous college student who was picked up by the army on April 5.

The investigation would focus on identifying the cause of death, said Sayed Tarikul Hassan, superintendent of police in Rangamati.

An unnatural death case was filed with Panchlailsh Police Station in Chittagong following his death at Chittagong Medical College Hospital on April 19.

Romel, an HSC examinee and a leader of Pahari Chhatra Parishad, was picked up from a village market in Naniarchar upazila of Rangamati. His death sparked protests in the hill tracts as well as in Dhaka.

It remains unclear how the visually impaired youth, aged 20, died.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

It's Macron, Le Pen

Novice centrist predicted to face far-right leader in final round

CNN ONLINE

France's far-right leader Marine Le Pen will face a relative novice, the independent centrist Emmanuel Macron, in the final round of the country's presidential election, early projections suggest.

According to estimates from CNN affiliate BFMTV and polling company Elabe, newcomer Macron secured 24% of the vote, with National Front leader Le Pen close behind on 21.8%.

The result, if confirmed, is a comprehensive rejection of traditional French politics. Neither candidate hails from the establishment parties that have dominated France for decades.

BFMTV and Elabe suggest scandal-hit conservative François Fillon and far-left wildcard Jean-Luc Mélenchon won 19.9% and 19.3% of the vote respectively, and have been knocked out of the closely-fought race.

Speaking to supporters in Henin-Beaumont, anti-immigration, anti-European Union candidate Le Pen hailed the result: "It is time to free French people from arrogant elites... I am the people's candidate."

"The French people must seize this opportunity, because the enormous challenge of this election is the wild globalization that puts our civilization at risk," Le Pen said.

"Either we continue to disintegrate without any borders, without any controls, unfair international competition, mass immigration and the free circulation of terrorists, or you choose France with borders," she added.

A huge cheer went up at Macron's campaign headquarters as news of the results came through. "France's political map is tonight redrawn," said CNN's Melissa Bell, who was at the scene.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Marine Le Pen Emmanuel Macron

Ready to strike US carrier

Threatens N Korea

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korea said yesterday it was ready to sink a US aircraft carrier to demonstrate its military might, as two Japanese navy ships joined a US carrier group for exercises in the western Pacific.

US President Donald Trump ordered the USS Carl Vinson carrier strike group to sail to waters off the Korean peninsula in response to rising tension over the North's nuclear and missile tests, and its threats to attack the United States and its Asian allies.

The United States has not specified where the carrier strike group is as it approaches the area. US Vice President Mike Pence said on Saturday it would arrive "within days" but gave no other details.

North Korea remained defiant. "Our revolutionary forces are combat-ready to sink a US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier with a single strike," the Rodong Sinmun, the newspaper of the North's ruling Workers' Party, said in a commentary.

The paper likened the aircraft carrier to a "gross animal" and said a strike on it would be "an actual example to show our military's force".

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/ANISUR RAHMAN

A portion of a road in the capital's Dholaikhal-Kutubkhali of Jatrabari that went under water following Saturday night's heavy rain. The rainwater has nowhere to go as the nearby canal, as seen in the inset photo taken on Saturday, has been filled up with household and industrial waste over the years, with the authorities turning a blind eye to the problem.

UTTARA UNIVERSITY
Quality Education at Affordable Tuition
www.uttarauniversity.edu.bd

Admission Summer 2017 Programs

- Dept. of Textile Engineering**
 - > B.Sc. in Textile Engineering
- Dept. of Civil Engineering**
 - > B.Sc. in Civil Engineering
- Dept. of Business Administration**
 - > BBA, MBA, EMBA (Executive)
 - Accounting, Finance, Marketing
 - Human Resource Management (HRM)
 - Management Information System (MIS)
- Dept. of Electrical & Electronic Engg.**
 - > B.Sc. in Electrical & Electronic Engg.
- Dept. of English**
 - > B.A (Hons), M.A in ELT (1year & 2years)
 - > M.A (2-years), M.A (Final)
- Dept. of Bengali**
 - > B.A (Hons), M.A (2-years), M.A (Final)
- Dept. of Physical Education**
 - > B.P.Ed, M.P.Ed
- Dept. of Education**
 - > B.Ed. (Hons), B.Ed, M.Ed
- Dept. of Fashion Design & Technology**
 - > B.Sc. (Hons) in Fashion Design & Technology
 - * Major in Fashion Design
 - * Major in Apparel Merchandizing & Management
 - > MBA in Apparel Merchandizing & Fashion Management
- Dept. of Mathematics**
 - > B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc. (2-years), M.Sc. (Final)
- Dept. of Computer Science & Engg.**
 - > B.Sc. (Hons) in Computer Science
 - > B.Sc. in Computer Science & Engg.
 - > M.Sc. in Computer Science & Engg.
- Dept. of Law**
 - > LL.B. (Hons)
 - > LL.M. (1-year)
 - > LL.M. (2-years)
- Dept. of Physics**
 - > M.Sc. (2-years), M.Sc. (Final)
- Dept. of Islamic Studies**
 - > B.A (Hons), M.A (2-years), M.A (Final)

10% to 100% Tuition Scholarship for All Programs

Administrative Building:
House-4, Road-15, Sector-6, Uttara, Dhaka-1230
Phone: 58951116, 58955794, 58952280
Mobile: 01706643282, 01932357444

School of Business:
NZ Center, House-5, Road-12, Sector-6, Uttara, Dhaka
Phone: 8932325, 8932541
Mobile: 01777-641332

Department of Law:
House: 01, Road-12, Sector-6, Uttara, Dhaka-1230
Phone: 58955310, 58957316, 58953325
Mobile: 01748-290052

Mirpur Campus:
Robul Tower, Mirpur Housing Estate
Plot: C-1/Kha, Section -1, Mirpur -1, Dhaka
Phone: 9009844, 9009895, Mobile: 01962-330640

Permanent Campus: Grambhatulia, Turag, Dhaka, (adjacent to Sector-16, Uttara 3rd Phase)